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Editor's note: Many of the game schedules were tentative at press time. To confirm dates, opponents and locations, please contact the schools.

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Duke wasn't itself last season, but these Blue Devils are talented and deep enough to dominate

BY MIKE DECOURCY

Dusting off an old sports joke might be the means of differentiating between the bunch of Blue Devils that will win the NCAA title this season and the squad that began last season 12-0, won the ACC Tournament and reached the round of 16 in the NCAA Tournament but still failed to meet its program's brutally grand standards.

Last season, the players should have worn the letters U-K-E across the front of their jerseys.

No D.

Those Devils finished with a 26-7 record. They were 8-4 against teams that reached the NAAs. They received a No. 3 seed, the seventh consecutive year they opened as one of the tournament's top dozen teams. But they never really performed like a Duke team. Duke defends.

So what will make this team better, even though the one key player lost—forward Dahntay Jones—was the team's defensive stopper? Experience. Freshmen played nearly 40 percent of the minutes a year ago. Duke relied heavily on guards J.J. Redick and Sean Dockery and big men Sheldon Williams and Shavlik Randolph. Those players, as part of the natural progression from rookie to veteran, should be better equipped to operate as a defensive unit.

"There is a lot more going on in the game than just, 'Can you shoot?' or 'Can you pass?'" says Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski. "You have to believe in helping one another defensively. Communication is important. The younger you are, the harder it is to talk because you're trying to take care of your own responsibility."

The Devils will have more D to help them in several ways:

Duhon. Last season couldn't have gone much worse for Chris Duhon. He shot 38.6 percent and averaged 9.2 points after opening as the ACC's preseason player of the year. The pressure to achieve at that level distracted him from his job as point guard.

"He didn't have, for him, a good year," Krzyzewski says. "I think he was not prepared for the fact he's not the guy to carry a team. He's the guy to run a team. Chris was given the accolades that a (Shane) Battier, (Jason) Williams, (Christian) Laettner got—he'll never be that. But he can be one of the top guards in the country."

There will be more of a team to run this season. Sheldon Williams averaged 10.7 points and 7.6 rebounds in the final dozen games last season. Randolph's impressive skills weren't of much use as he

struggled physically to rebound and defend. But he had offseason hip surgery that should make him more comfortable on his feet, and he gained more than 30 pounds through weight training.

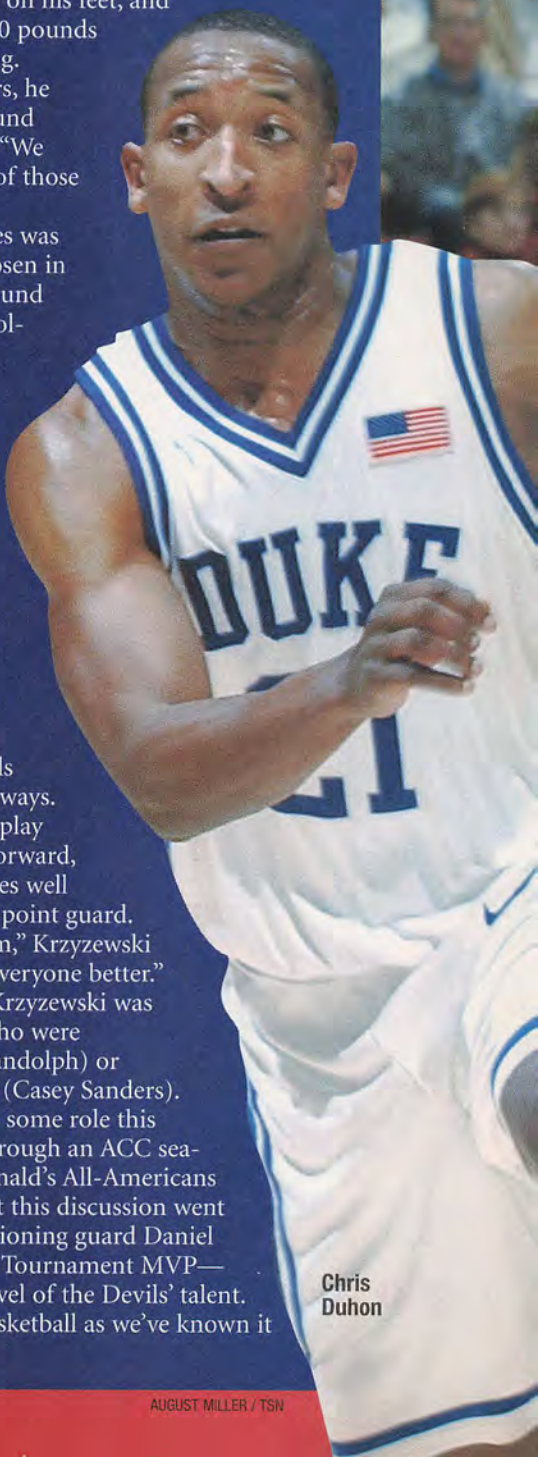
"Chris' first two years, he had a lot of pieces around him," Krzyzewski says. "We think we'll have more of those kinds of pieces."

Deng. Although Jones was good enough to be chosen in the NBA draft's first round and had five years of college experience, freshman Luol Deng is a more skilled and polished player. The Devils last season were a one-trick offense. If Redick wasn't hitting deep shots, they were easy to guard. Duke has never been a system team. It needs guys who can make plays. Randolph and Deng have the skills to score in a variety of ways. Though he'll probably play most often as a small forward, Deng handles and passes well enough to create like a point guard.

"However we use him," Krzyzewski says, "he'll help make everyone better."

Depth. Last season, Krzyzewski was forced to use players who were unproven (Dockery, Randolph) or proven to be incapable (Casey Sanders). Of the 10 likely to earn some role this year, nine have been through an ACC season. Seven were McDonald's All-Americans in high school. The fact this discussion went this long without mentioning guard Daniel Ewing—the 2003 ACC Tournament MVP—says much about the level of the Devils' talent.

This will be Duke basketball as we've known it for so long: dominant.



Chris Duhon

SCOUTING the NATION

Daniel
Ewing



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

SCOUTING the NATION

No team with lower than a No. 5 seed reached the Final Four in the past three seasons, and it has happened only three times since 1990. In spite of its .801 regular-season winning percentage since 1998-99, Gonzaga has not been awarded an NCAA Tournament seed better than No. 6. This is the kind of statistical reality the Zags are weary—and wary—of battling.

With groundwork established by previous coach Dan Monson, current Gonzaga boss Mark Few has constructed a modern hoops miracle. But there has been little affection for Gonzaga among NCAA selection committee members. They have preferred to process this program as an overachieving mid-major instead of what the Zags really are: a major power that happens to compete in a mid-major league.

The Bulldogs rank sixth in Division I victories over the past four years, and among those in front are Duke and Arizona. Few's 105 wins in four years is the second-best total for a fourth-year head coach. Point guard Blake Stepp won a spot on the U.S. team in the Pan American Games. He and power forward Ronny Turiaf rank among the top three players nationally at their positions.

The Bulldogs are so big across the front line they can rotate four players whose average size is 6-9½, 245 pounds. They are so deep that nine players averaged at least 10 minutes last

season, and seven return. The replacements are promising red-shirt Sean Mallon and gifted transfer Erroll Knight, perhaps the most athletic player ever to join the Zags.

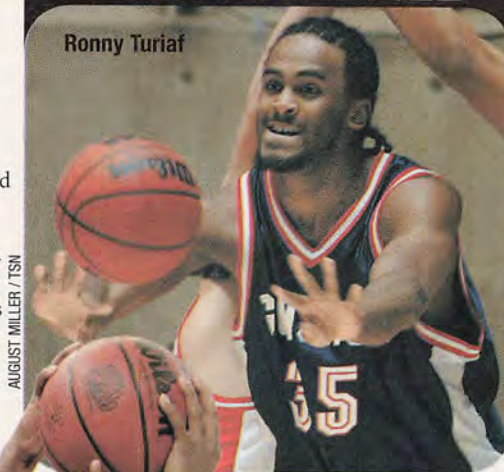
Only 18 programs have made three straight Sweet 16 trips since the tournament field expanded to 64 teams in 1985; Gonzaga's 1999-2001 run is among those. The double-overtime loss to top-seeded Arizona in last year's NCAA second round was further confirmation of Gonzaga's ability to compete with the heavyweights.

Last year's committee demonstrated it was not beholden to the BCS league powers by awarding No. 3 seeds to Xavier from the Atlantic 10 and Marquette from Conference USA and a No. 4 to A-10 Tournament winner Dayton. That Gonzaga wound up in an 8-9 game was largely its own fault because the Bulldogs could not mount a coherent defense in nonconference games and fell in the West Coast Conference final to San Diego.

This Gonzaga team should be much better, with more athleticism along the perimeter to improve the defense and Turiaf and big Cory Violette expected to improve inside. Should the Zags fulfill their potential, it will be time for that fulfillment to be acknowledged with a decent seed.

TAGGING THE ZAGS

Ronny Turiaf



AUGUST MILLER / TSN

AT HOME IN THE ZONE

Hakim Warrick



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Just about every NCAA champion produces a next-season trend. Some are exposed as fads and quickly fade; some last long enough to become standards of the game.

Arizona's 1997 team fueled the popularity of three-guard offenses. Connecticut's 1999 team illustrated the possibilities of the two-point attack, which since has been copied by many teams fortunate enough to persuade two great point guards to join the same squad.

Syracuse's triumph last April in New Orleans will put much of college basketball in a zone.

Almost exclusively employing their active 2-3 zone defense, the Orangemen held NCAA Tournament opponents to 38.8 percent shooting from the field, 29.0 percent from 3-point range and 68 points per game. What is supposed to be a difficult defense in which to rebound did not prevent SU from doing more than an adequate job against its opponents during the six games required to claim the title. Of the leading scorers for their opponents, only Auburn's Marquis Daniels shot better than 50 percent from the field.

That is what coach Jim Boeheim wants to see, expects to see, when his team is executing its zone properly, moving on every pass and focusing attention on proficient 3-point shooters. He has seen teams struggle to get the ball to their top players in comfortable scoring situations when facing a well-played zone. Boeheim believes teams tend to freeze against the zone late in games because they rarely face it then. Many coaches aren't comfortable sticking with a zone when protecting a lead because mistakes can lead to open 3-point shots.

If junior Hakim Warrick successfully makes the transition to small forward and freshman Terrence Roberts rapidly learns how to play, the Syracuse zone might have even more sting than it did last season. But the zone is not a magic formula for success. The best teams Syracuse faced that knew the zone well—Big East finalists Pittsburgh and Connecticut—were a combined 3-1 against the Orangemen. And Syracuse's one success occurred when it switched to man-to-man for the final 15 minutes of a home win over the Panthers.

UCLA coach Ben Howland, then at Pittsburgh, explains that his first priority in attacking the 2-3 zone was placing a player, most often small forward Jaron Brown, in the seam that exists near the foul line. The Panthers threw passes to Brown there and encouraged him to create plays as the defense collapsed to attack the ball. The Pitt coaches also encouraged the use of screens against perimeter zone defenders to interrupt their slides.

So the Syracuse zone isn't infallible. But as the season begins, it's on a perfect roll.

New blood runs thin

Just as there will be no LeBron in high school basketball this season, or for the foreseeable future, there will be no Carmelo in college. There won't be an abundance of productive freshmen—not because so many players went directly to the NBA but because the class as a whole isn't that talented. But there will be freshmen capable of helping their teams into championship contention:

Andrew Bogut, center, Utah.

Imagine this: a foreign-born player who wants to play NCAA basketball passionately enough that he rejects at least one multimillion-dollar offer from a European club and tolerates the eligibility clearinghouse delaying his enrollment. This summer, Bogut dominated the Junior World Championships, averaging 37 points and 19.5 rebounds in the two games of the championship round. And if that doesn't impress you because the U.S. wasn't involved, be aware Bogut slapped 22 points, 18 rebounds and five assists on the Americans in an earlier 21-point Australia victory.

Mustafa Shakur, point guard, Arizona. At 6-3, he is bigger than many of the excellent young point guards who have entered Division I in recent years. His length is an advantage on

defense, and he is exceptional at running his team. Shakur needs to gain strength, but he will be a star. Arizona has the reputation as Point Guard U., but it has

not had a genuine quarterback at the position since Mike Bibby's career ended in 1998.

Leon Powe, power forward, California. Powe joins the very short list of prospects who entered Division I with the strong shoulders and post scoring skills to dominate the lane and force opponents to consider double-teaming. What makes Powe different from such recent wide bodies as Zach Randolph and Sean May is that

Powe plays with an angry, relentless quality. He pursues rebounds with an overwhelming zeal and on offense powers through tight defenses. That is precisely what the Bears lacked last season.

Linas Kleiza, power forward, Missouri.

How long before

Missouri tires of the puny

rebound totals from

underachieving incum-

bent Travon Bryant and starts feeding his minutes to Kleiza? If a power forward is going to be shooting from long range, it might as well be someone with a chance to make the shots. Kleiza led all scorers at the Junior World Championships with a 29.1 average, and was second in field-goal shooting at 65.9 percent.

Leon Powe

RICH PEDRONCELLI / AP

HOOPS

GUY'S

critical eye

Todd Billet

Makeover shows are the rage on television, but you don't need a camera, a well-dressed host (or five) and 200-plus cable channels to offer suggestions for how to spruce up some programs:

Virginia. Hiring assistant coach Rod Jensen to fix the Cavs' defense was a nice idea, but it didn't work. That's because what really is wrong with this program is talent evaluation. Virginia has too many players who don't work hard or work together. It has too many players who aren't athletic enough to excel in the ACC. It hasn't had a guard who could run an offense and defend at the point of attack. What it does have this season is a decent complement of wings; the Cavs must play faster and extend their defense. It's not the best approach for guard Todd Billet, but they can keep him fresh by subbing frequently.

St. John's. How long has it been since the coach actually was in charge here? Mike Jarvis hasn't done much more than allow his ballhandling guards to dictate the pace and style of play. When Erick Barkley was running things, it worked great. When Omar Cook took over, at least his teammates got quality shots. When it was Marcus Hatten's turn, well, Hatten got to do plenty and everyone else was a spectator. Jarvis may not be a strategic wizard, but he has got to have some ideas about the game. Elijah Ingram is a nice talent who was well coached by Bob Hurley Sr. in high school, but Ingram shouldn't be required to operate

without the benefit of guidance.

Colorado. It seems impossible that shooting guard Blair Wilson took almost as many 3-pointers as center David Harrison took shots. That the Buffaloes shot 44.3 percent from the field with a front line of Harrison, Michel Morandais and Stephane Pelle is tragic. They haven't had Big 12-level point guard play, but the offense still needs a sense of priorities. Getting Harrison more touches in the post will increase pressure on defenses. New assistant coach Paul Graham, who learned much from his years with Eddie Sutton at Oklahoma State, could help here.

Memphis. John Calipari says the current Memphis team will resemble his terrific Massachusetts squads from the early 1990s: depth, toughness, few big names. That's good. But how come Cal isn't buying his own sales pitch? He has spent his entire Memphis tenure trifling with big-name recruits who've mostly wasted his time and damaged the program's image: Dajuan Wagner, Qyntel Woods, Amare Stoudemire, Kendrick Perkins. Calipari does his best work with players who are willing to sacrifice and work hard. Look what he accomplished last season with John Grice (6.3 rpg), once a notorious slacker. It's time for Calipari to remember what made him great.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

The coach stops here

This offseason was typically active in terms of coaching changes, but was unusual in the number of highly prestigious programs affected. Had Kentucky's Tubby Smith chosen to listen harder to the Philadelphia 76ers, we might have witnessed a coaching carousel grand slam.

The triple crown we had—country club programs North Carolina, UCLA and Kansas all experienced turnover at the top—was enough to make this past off-season one of the most eventful in history.

This is how each school stands after hiring a new coach:

North Carolina, Roy Williams.

It was hard to get this one wrong. Williams was an obvious choice, so long as he'd take the job. He is a tireless recruiter, a great teacher and one of the best offensive minds in the game. His first team will lack inside depth, just as the Tar Heels did last season. They still are a Sean May injury away from



Bill Self

PETER NEWCOMB FOR TSN

slipping to the NCAA Tournament bubble. UNC will be the most obviously improved team in Division I because Williams' secondary break is perfectly suited to the key players: point guard Raymond Felton, forward Jawad Williams and May. This team will score a truckload of points.

Kansas, Bill Self. Although he first gained notice at Tulsa by stressing pressure defense, Self may be even better at persuading big people to play strong inside. He steps into an ideal situation, with established frontcourt veterans in Wayne Simien and

Jeff Graves and a gifted recruit in 7-footer David Padgett. Self will not endure the same struggle to control his backcourt as when he arrived at Illinois; KU guards Aaron Miles and Keith Langford handle their jobs well and are adequate defenders. The greatest concern will be a lack of deep shooting. Compensating may require the Jayhawks to play an uglier style than their fans are accustomed to watching. Will they be content if it works?

UCLA, Ben Howland. The Bruins are recovering from such a dismal year that the first time they successfully operate a set play, Howland will look like James A. Naismith. (You thought it would be John Wooden, didn't you?) Howland is as good as anyone at getting players to function as a unit. He would love you to believe there is no talent here in order to keep expectations in check, but hold on a second. Cedric Bozeman has been a disaster, but he entered college as a McDonald's All-American. Center Ryan Hollins earned raves for his work with the U.S. junior national team. Small forward Dijon Thompson is one of the most talented players in the Pac-10. If Howland persuades T.J. Cummings, who isn't eligible until December, to play power forward as it is meant to be played—and if Cummings doesn't, he will spectate—UCLA could see the bright side of .500. At least.

Underneath the surface

The course of a season is not always determined by the obvious stuff: which team has the most quality starters returning, which team has the greatest size or the deepest bench. How all that stuff interacts is important. These are a few hidden keys to what will happen in 2003-04:

Handling Taron Downey. Although he started all 30 games as a sophomore and led Wake Forest in minutes and assists as it won the ACC championship, Downey now is the third-best point guard on the Deacons' roster. Wake already dealt with Justin Gray by playing him at shooting guard, where he excels. But with the arrival of freshman star Chris Pau—quicker, more creative and a better shooter than Downey—the coaching staff will need to tread lightly with this situation. Downey is an ideal third guard. Will he be content with this role?

Covering for Andrew Lavender. Oklahoma's new point guard might be the shortest major-conference starter. Commonly listed at 5-7, Lavender is lucky if he's within 2 inches of that. The Sooners don't think that'll be a problem on offense but will be surprised when teammates have a tough time locating him for restarts. OU knows, however, Lavender's stature will alter their defensive strategy. They've always beaten up opponents with a physical brand of position defense. Lavender's incredible quickness will be an asset as they incorporate more gambling in their approach. But wings Jason Detrick and De'Angelo Alexander will need to be prepared to help Lavender without blowing their own assignments.



Taron Downey

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Avoiding small ball.

Duke could get away with 6-6 Dahntay Jones functioning nominally as a power forward because the ACC was an under-sized league, but size eventually caught up with the Blue Devils. So Arizona can afford to steal minutes with rugged Andre Iguodala at that position, but the Wildcats will need 6-9 Isaiah Fox to play full-time if they're serious about returning to the Final Four. Fox is immobile and does not fit well in Arizona's schemes, but recruit Ndudi Ebi's entry into the NBA draft rendered Fox essential to the operation.

Gators' grit.

Florida was too pretty

for its own good the past few years and beat opponents on the boards by only 1.6 per game last season. The Gators missed 27 shots against Michigan State in last season's NCAA loss but rebounded only eight. In postseason tournament games the past three seasons, the Gators are 4-6. This could change with David Lee moving to power forward and Chris Richard expected to enter the lineup at center. But Florida isn't going to do this just with personnel moves. There has to be a new attitude—one in which playing confidently away from home is paramount.

San Antonio STOCK EXCHANGE

In a season unpredictable enough for a freshman to become the dominant NCAA Tournament player, it wasn't easy to forecast the likely winners and losers. That's not much of an excuse for more or less breaking even with last year's TSN "stock" picks, but it'll do.

Out of seven recommendations for 2002-03, three

were direct hits, one was reasonably accurate and three were flops. This was the poorest performance yet for these buy/sell recommendations. That's no reason not to keep trying.

And, as always, past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

BUYSELL

Purdue. There is one last flourish in Gene Keady, and this will be it. His team has size, depth and maturity up front. Point guard Brandon McKnight is making gradual progress and should be ready to handle the job full-time. Scoring is going to be a chore, which is why the Boilers won't win the Big Ten and probably won't reach the Sweet 16. But this team will win 20 overall and 10 in conference play.

Villanova. Plenty of folks got ahead of themselves in expecting the Wildcats' resurgence last season, and it might be further delayed by the lingering effects of last year's phone-call scandal. But when all the Wildcats are gathered, they will contend for an NCAA bid.

Raymond Felton. Although Felton was one of the few North Carolina players not openly whining about the need for a new coach last winter, he will greatly benefit in the shift from Matt Doherty to Roy Williams. The Williams approach is to let his point guards operate at full speed and make decisions. Felton is the most talented playmaker Williams has coached.

Washington State. The coaching change to Dick Bennett can't hurt, and neither does having guard Marcus Moore for another season. The most important factor is that WSU can't possibly suffer the kind of injury problems that afflicted the program the past couple of years. The Cougars will not make the NCAA Tournament, but they'll flirt with doubling last season's win total (seven) and could squeeze above the .500 mark.

Brandon McKnight



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Chuck Hayes



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

Kentucky. The Wildcats will be a very good team, probably Southeastern Conference champions. They have versatility, toughness and a commitment to their coach's system. But predictions that have them as high as No. 3 appear unrealistic. UK will struggle to replace wing Keith Bogans and center Marquis Estill with players who cause as much stress for defenses, and Estill also posed problems as a shot-blocker. This is not a 32-win team.

LSU. If Jaime Lloreda's being disciplined in the offseason for striking a fellow LSU player did not convince you the Tigers might be set to decline, watch how much his new teammates enjoy playing with point guard recruit Tack Minor. He comes from the new school of small guards that follows this doctrine: "If Allen Iverson can get away with it, so can I." But only Iverson is talented enough to win playing as he does.

The MAC. Such great players as Chris Kaman, Brandon Hunter, Antonio Gates and Theron Smith cycled out of the Mid-American Conference, and there are no obvious replacements. The basketball still will be entertaining and competitive, but when the league gets only one NCAA bid this spring, it won't have grounds to complain.

TSN

E-mail senior writer Mike DeCourcy at decourcy@sportingnews.com.

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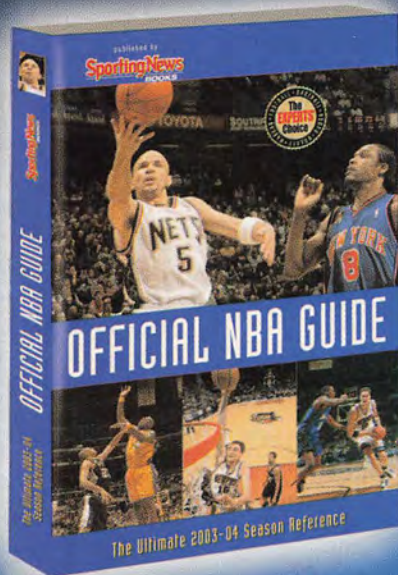
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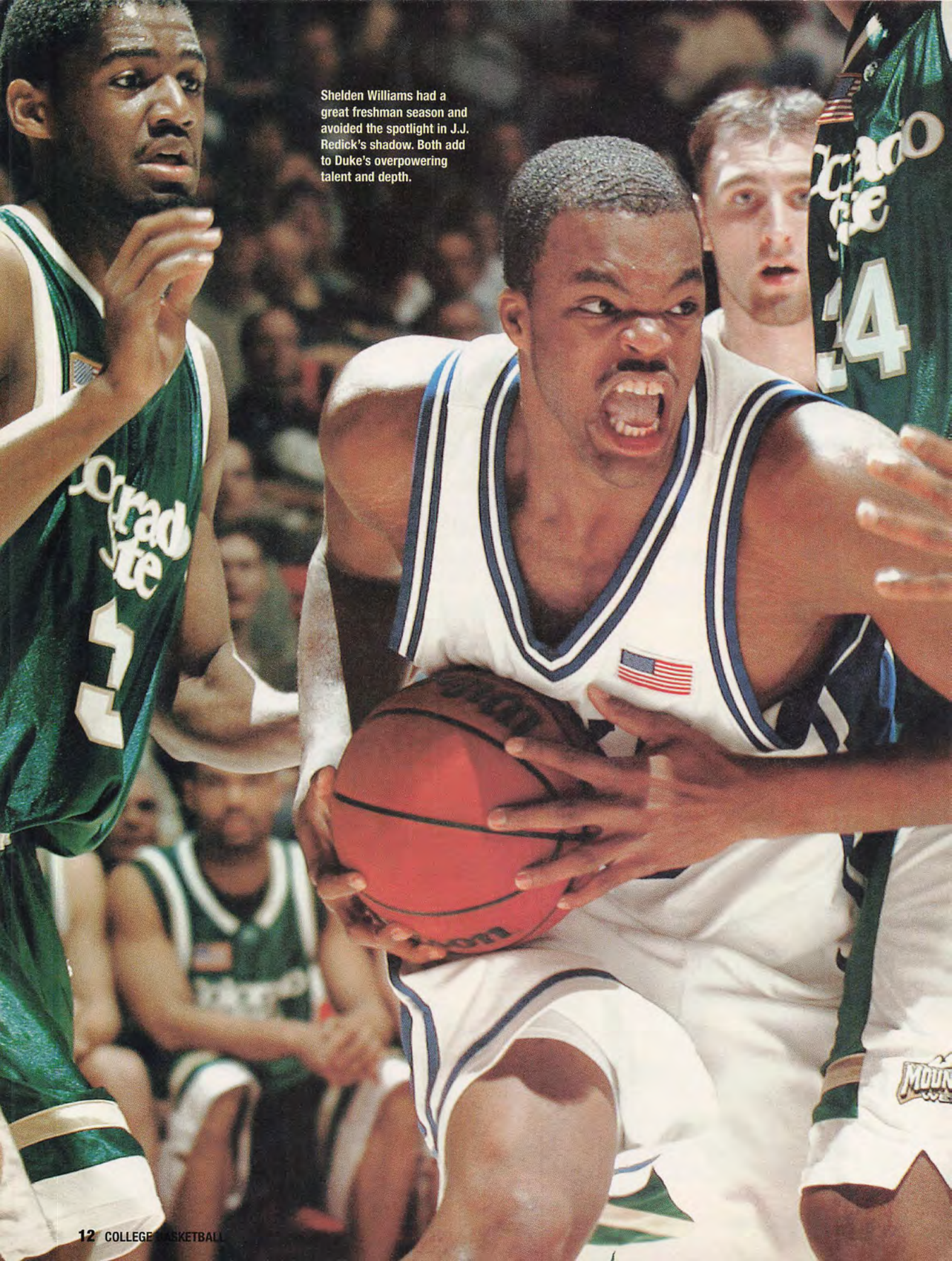
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Shelden Williams had a great freshman season and avoided the spotlight in J.J. Redick's shadow. Both add to Duke's overpowering talent and depth.



BY MIKE DeCOURCY

TOP

25

Believe the

HYPE

... about Duke and another 24 teams with the stuff to go far in league play and the NCAA Tournament

1. DUKE Yeah, yeah, we know. You're sick of the Blue Devils. You're sick of seeing every one of their games on ESPN, sick of Dick Vitale praising them at excruciating decibels, sick of having them waltz halfway to the Final Four in a down year. And you're sick of them annually being over-hyped by the media. Well, sorry, but that hasn't happened here. SPORTING NEWS predicted the Devils would finish second in 1999 and win it all in 2001. Both picks were dead-on. So, Duke-o-phobes could be in serious trouble with the Devils perched this high for 2004. Duke will have to play significantly better defense than it managed last season. Power forward Shavlik Randolph and point guard Chris Duhon must recover the talent that once promised greatness for each. This is a team with size, perimeter shooting, depth and a coach to tie these assets in a cohesive, functional package. Duke is back on top.

AUGUST MILLER / TSN

2. CONNECTICUT The last time the Huskies were this close to championship territory, they featured two reliable point guards: Khalid El-Amin and Ricky Moore. This time, they might not have one. Senior Taliek Brown has his moments, but his inconsistency is frustrating. C Emeka Okafor has the composure to handle the most trying situations and the talent to shine at both ends. It has been awhile since the dominant player on an NCAA champion was a center. Okafor isn't the biggest player to challenge conventional wisdom, and he isn't the best (that would be Tim Duncan). But Okafor might be in the right place at the right time.

3. MICHIGAN STATE Coach Tom Izzo is a football fanatic who has been known to have his guys practice in shoulder pads and helmets. Now, if he could find a way to play two platoons. He must divide the minutes for six capable players on the perimeter, none of whom is a natural, proven Division I point guard. There are worse problems than being surrounded by McDonald's All-Americans—such as losing a pro-caliber power forward, Erazem Lorbek, after just one season. That left the Spartans thinner than planned inside, but All-American candidate Paul Davis still has enough company to get by. If this team finds a quarterback, it will be a threat to go deep in the NCAAs.

4. MISSOURI The season cannot arrive fast enough for the Tigers, who are eager to escape an offseason that included NCAA investigations, court depositions and a jail sentence. The Big 12 is loaded but can't be tougher than that. The Tigers arrive equipped with seniors Rickey Paulding and Arthur Johnson, who have played as much as anyone in Division I. Missouri has been neither a great defensive team nor an offensively efficient one in the past several seasons, but this team finally might be directed by a point guard, Randy Pulley, more interested in sharing the basketball than hogging the credit. The Tigers should catch this opportunity. They won't get another like it for a while.

5. GONZAGA If you're still a skeptic after watching the Bulldogs take top-seeded Arizona to double overtime in last year's NCAA second round, perhaps these facts will be lost on you. But it's worth a try: The Zags averaged 27 victories in the past five years, failed to advance only once in the NCAA Tournament during that period and earned eight tournament victories—more than Indiana or North Carolina. This season, led by PG Blake Stepp and PF Ronny Turiaf, the Zags have better players—at least more of them—than either of those teams. The Gonzaga phenomenon might be difficult to explain, but it's foolish to ignore.

6. ARIZONA They'll go by the same name, but these Wildcats will look nothing like the teams that immediately preceded them. What they'll resemble most—easy now, Cats fans—is the 1997 team that blazed through the NCAA Tournament with one of the best backcourts in the game's history. PG Mustafa Shakur is not Mike Bibby, but he's going to have the best season among all the freshmen and is capable of elevating his team in ways Arizona hasn't experienced since Bibby departed. The athleticism on the wings should improve this team's defense. There probably aren't enough big guys to make it to the finish, but there's enough speed to make it a heck of a race.

7. SYRACUSE The Orangemen will be better this season but won't win the national title. If that sounds contradictory, remember this sport lasts five months, not five weeks. Last year's team was terrific, but it lost games this team would win. The Orangemen will have PG Billy Edelin for a full season to pair in the backcourt with Gerry McNamara, a more confident Hakim Warrick at forward, more experience in the zone defense and a rare abundance of depth. SU won't have Carmelo Anthony, but neither will anyone else. This team won't overcome the difficult burden of trying to repeat as champion, but it will be a great team.

8. KANSAS No contender endured a bigger shakeup in the offseason.

Roy Williams was so much a part of campus that buildings were to be named for him. Bill Self can't instantly generate that attachment and can't hope to regenerate the blinding pace that led KU to the 2003 NCAA final. It's not his style, and he doesn't have Kirk Hinrich to make it work. What Self likes is having big guys play physically inside and having quickness on the perimeter to pressure the ball. He has the material for both. PF Wayne Simien, if healthy, is perfectly suited to the approach and will star.

9. NORTH CAROLINA For new Heels coach Roy Williams, it's like moving from a million-dollar home ... into another million-dollar home. He steps into an ideal situation. The previous Heels team underachieved because of injury and depth problems; the current team still has gifted players, all of them more experienced now. PG Raymond Felton will be dazzling as Williams orders UNC to pick up the pace. The one obvious challenge is to manage temperamental SG Rashad McCants, who can destroy other teams with his scoring skill or his own with petulance.

10. FLORIDA So here they are again: too talented to dismiss, too flighty to be worthy of a prediction that fully acknowledges that talent. The Gators need not be ashamed. They've won an average of 24 games annually since closing 2000 in the national title game. They even spent 15 minutes or so ranked No. 1 last season. The problem is March. The Gators have been pushovers in the SEC and NCAA tournaments—losing, and losing meekly. This group appears to have similar strengths (a lot of guys who can score) and afflictions (a lot of guys who *like* to score). Lately, rebounding has been scarce and the defense pliable. But this could be the year.

11. OKLAHOMA At the heart of a team known mostly for its beef, the player who will matter most stands 5-7: PG Andrew Lavender. Coach Kelvin Sampson is used to guards beating up on opposing ballhandlers but will have to grow comfortable with Lavender hassling them with quickness and stealing the ball. If any team can accommodate Lavender's uncommon

stature, it's the Sooners. They've got big wings, a big frontcourt and big ideas about what is possible even without star Hollis Price. Playing with a pint-sized point guard might turn out to be no big deal.

12. ILLINOIS Dee Brown and Deron Williams couldn't bring a world championship home to the United States, but they brought plenty of reason for optimism back to the Illini. Brown was a dominant scoring force on the U.S. junior national team, and Williams was the most productive passer. Taking on a new job and a much more prominent challenge, coach Bruce Weber couldn't ask for greater comfort than an established, able backcourt. What he needs now is to develop a post game. Aside from PF James Augustine, the team's inside players are promising but unproven. Size matters here. The Big Ten still is a man's league.

13. CINCINNATI The program's sketchy offseason included legal troubles for three current players, the defection of long-committed recruit Jamar Butler, foot surgery for incoming PG Nick Williams and SF James White's foolish decision to play in an unsanctioned summer game. So how can this be a time to be optimistic about the Bearcats? Depth at point guard, a legitimate center in Robert Whaley to free PF Jason Maxiell to star, White's athletic brilliance energizing the defense and Field Williams and Tony Bobbitt sniping from 3-point range. This is twice the team Bob Huggins coached to 17 wins last season.

14. TEXAS If any team could make us look really, really bad, this is it. The Longhorns have so many assets, but there might not be one player to bring those together. The player who did it last season, T.J. Ford, is with the Milwaukee Bucks. His successor is likely to be junior college transfer Edgar Moreno. The Longhorns will improve defensively, and freshman C Brad Buckman might be more than an occasional standout. But to approach last season's success, Texas needs a level of playmaking that doesn't appear available. If it is, oh boy, will we be wrong.



15. KENTUCKY From last season's gem of a team, the Wildcats lost their two leading scorers and two top post players. But with a name like Kentucky, this team has to be good, right? Forwards Chuck Hayes and Erik Daniels are as reliable as they come, but it's a lot to ask them to suppress every 6-10 center UK encounters. Much of the pressure on the frontcourt will be eased by an excellent perimeter defense that generates turnovers and disrupts opposing offenses. That is this team's primary strength. The Wildcats also may have to find ways to generate scoring from their defense. The points have to come from somewhere.

16. SAINT JOSEPH'S Is it fair to say the Hawks would have been closer to 160th if PG Jameer Nelson had chosen to keep his name on the NBA's draft list? Not really, but that does emphasize his importance with a certain style. Nelson alone can't carry this team to the Sweet 16. He tried it at the end of last season, when SG Delonte West was hurt, and scored oodles of points that only made the Hawks' narrow losses more agonizing. He needs help from West and sweet-shooting SF Pat Carroll and an inside game that figures to be more physical and slightly more potent. But the help needs Nelson, too.

17. PITTSBURGH Ben Howland's genius soon will return UCLA to a place of distinction, but he left a good bit of it behind to keep this program rolling. His top assistant, Jamie Dixon, takes over and plans to continue with the same system and many of the same players. The difference is PG Carl Krauser taking over for Brandin Knight—a fiery creator taking over for a cool, patient quarterback. Krauser is more likely to manufacture scores, but he can be volatile. The Panthers have leadership from SF Jaron Brown and more size than they ever enjoyed in Howland's day. Keeping this program at this level is a big job.

18. WAKE FOREST What do you get a team that has two capable point guards? A McDonald's All-American: 5-11 Chris Paul. He will be the best of the Deacons' trio at that position, although sophomore Justin Gray will get along just fine playing off the ball and emphasizing scoring. Paul's ability to set up teammates will make PF Vytas Danelius and C Eric Williams more dangerous along the baseline. Together, they averaged 14.6 shots last season, even though hitting 53 percent. Gray figures to carry the offense, so long as he advances from occasionally spectacular to spectacularly consistent as easily as he has moved from one guard position to the other.

19. WISCONSIN Where basketball once was viewed as hopeless—and few agonized about it—the Badgers have a chance to enter exclusive company by claiming a third consecutive Big Ten championship. The race isn't what it used to be, with no two schedules being equal, but what's important is that such a thing is possible. League opponents still haven't gotten used to dealing with coach Bo Ryan's system, but the Wisconsin players have. PG Devin Harris might be the least appreciated great player. He made an amazing position change last season and again will be his team's most important player. He is surrounded by guys who have proved they're not out of their league.

20. LOUISVILLE The Cardinals became known for their comeback ability in returning from NIT-level obscurity last season, but the key was their ability to endure. They ran, replaced a few parts, then ran until opponents couldn't continue. They have more parts now: PG Brandon Jenkins, SF Nate Daniels and PF Nouha Diakite, all newcomers to go with SF Francisco Garcia and SG Taquan Dean. Louisville will miss All-American Reece Gaines but will

emphasize the abundant depth that will fuel Rick Pitino's all-out pressure defense. There will be times when the halfcourt offense balks. If the press works as it should, and keeps working, the Cards will be around at the end.

21. N.C. STATE Reaching the NCAA Tournament by the thinnest of margins provided this program momentum and confidence that will energize the Pack or engender unrealistic expectations. We're betting on the former (perhaps contributing to the latter). With PF Marcus Melvin and SG Julius Hodge, N.C. State has skill few teams can approach. There still is no point guard, but the emphasis on Princeton-style sets mitigates that weakness, and SF Iliian Evtimov can manufacture scoring opportunities from the foul-line area the way '50s-era players could. Of greater concern is the absence of a post scorer, something lost when sophomore Josh Powell lost all reason and entered the NBA draft.

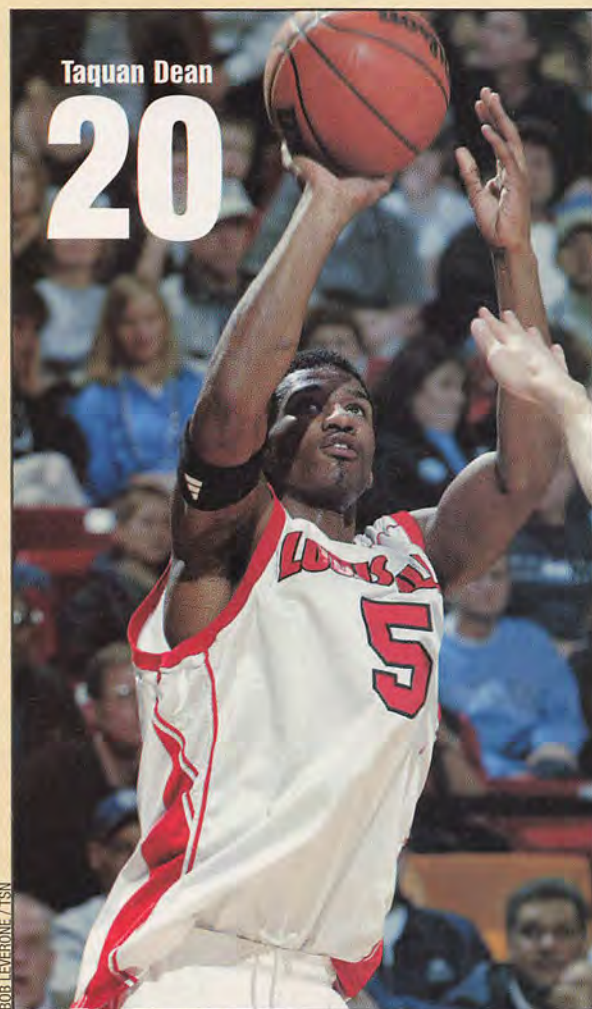
22. STANFORD The silliest thing to do in evaluating one of Mike Montgomery's teams is to consider what he lost from the previous year. It doesn't matter. Just give him something to work with, and that group will contend in the Pac-10. The past eight Cardinal squads finished third or better, with a .770 winning percentage. So this team will do without PG Julius Barnes because it has Chris Hernandez back from injury and improving deep threat Matt Lottich. SF Josh Childress should handle more scoring responsibility. Montgomery teaches rebounding to players who might not be inclined to bother. His defensive schemes aren't fancy, but they work. As long as Montgomery returns, Stanford is a factor.

23. NOTRE DAME Although Chris Thomas averaged 18.7 points and 6.9 assists as a sophomore, he was not everything he could be for the Irish. He was not a point guard. He played the position but didn't think like one, didn't lead like one. That comes now. Paired with sophomore Chris Quinn, Thomas should take charge of the offense and take control of a

young team. He must help cover for the absence of weapons on the front line, though C Torin Francis is improving. The plan is to play faster, giving Thomas less time to think but more decisions to make. This is his team, his time.

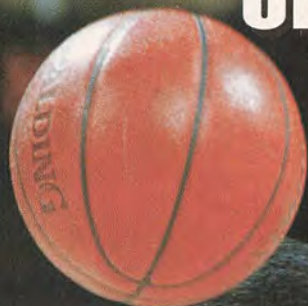
24. CALIFORNIA If you want a sneak peak at what PF Leon Powe might bring to the Golden Bears, picture Corliss Williamson or Danny Fortson—two productive players who didn't churn out huge numbers immediately. Powe can team with C Amit Tamir in a high/low attack that would be ideally suited to their complementary talents. The backcourt will be quicker and more lethal with freshman Ayinde Ubaka moving Richard Midgley over to shooting guard. The Bears weren't tough enough last season. Powe could address that problem on his own.

25. OHIO STATE Emonte Jernigan and Zach Williams transferred out; Tony Stockman and J.J. Sullinger transferred in. Through that exchange, the Buckeyes picked up more athletic ability, better ballhandling and more defensive potential. Not a bad trade. If they exchange a season filled with injuries for one of good health, they will be a serious challenger in the Big Ten. PF Terence Dials and PG Brandon Fuss-Cheatham were ruined last season by physical problems, and the offense nearly was impotent. It shouldn't hurt much that the three leading scorers moved on. This team is dependent on players who have yet to suit up for the Buckeyes and those who'd like to wear their uniforms more regularly.



BOB LEVERONE/TSN

Field of 65



AMERICA EAST: *Vermont.

ATLANTIC COAST: *Duke, North Carolina, Wake Forest, N.C. State, Maryland.

ATLANTIC SUN: *Troy State.

ATLANTIC 10: *St. Joseph's, Dayton, Xavier, Temple.

BIG EAST: *Connecticut, Syracuse, Pittsburgh, Notre Dame, Providence, Villanova.

BIG SKY: *Weber State.

BIG SOUTH: *Winthrop.

BIG TEN: *Michigan State, Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio State, Indiana, Purdue.

BIG 12: *Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma State.

BIG WEST: *UC Irvine.

COLONIAL: *George Mason.

CONFERENCE USA: *Cincinnati, Louisville, Memphis, Marquette.

HORIZON: *Illinois-Chicago.

IVY: *Princeton.

METRO ATLANTIC: *Manhattan.

MID-AMERICAN: *Bowling Green.

MID-CONTINENT: *Oakland.

MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC: *South Carolina State.

MISSOURI VALLEY: *Wichita State.

MOUNTAIN WEST: *BYU, Utah.

NORTHEAST: *Monmouth.

OHIO VALLEY: *Austin Peay.

PACIFIC-10: *Arizona, Stanford, California, Oregon, Arizona State.

PATRIOT: *Holy Cross.

SOUTHEASTERN: *Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi State, Auburn, Georgia.

SOUTHERN: *College of Charleston.

SOUTHLAND: *Stephen F. Austin.

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC: *Texas Southern.

SUN BELT: *Louisiana-Lafayette.

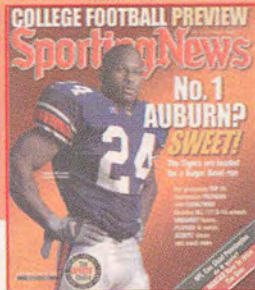
WEST COAST: *Gonzaga.

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TSN All-American teams

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	PPG	RPG	APG
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G Jameer Nelson 6-0/190 Sr. Saint Joseph's 19.7 5.1 4.7

To succeed, the Hawks need varied contributions from Nelson, and he excels in many categories. When an injury limited the availability and effectiveness of backcourt partner Delonte West, Nelson averaged 26.9 points in his last eight games. Mostly by shredding the defense with penetration, he scored more than half his team's points in season-closing losses to Dayton and Auburn. Nelson also is spectacular when drawing together a team with leadership and passing. Even at his size, he twice managed scoring/rebounding double-doubles. His most obvious deficiency is streaky 3-point shooting, but he never overdoes it when the shots aren't dropping.

G Raymond Felton 6-0/185 So. North Carolina 12.9 4.1 6.7

Amid all the petulance from the young Tar Heels last season regarding former coach Matt Doherty, the calmest voice belonged to Felton. That's one of the many examples of the leadership he can deliver. Felton matured dramatically in the final stages of his freshman season, averaging 9.8 assists in the final six games—not bad on a team that did not have a low-post scoring threat. That stretch included victories over Duke, Maryland and Wyoming. Felton is a capable long-range shooter and dynamic penetrator. He needs to control the basketball better and to become more accurate from the foul line.

F Rickey Paulding 6-5/218 Sr. Missouri 17.4 5.5 2.2

It seems like when everyone is expecting Paulding to star, he fades into quiet contribution—as with the U.S. entry in the Pan American Games, where he shot 38.5 percent and averaged only 7.6 points. But he's rarely less than effective—only one single-figure scoring game as a Tigers junior—and frequently brilliant. His 36-point eruption against Marquette was one of the NCAA Tournament's most impressive performances. Although he could do more to draw fouls, Paulding is uncommon among college wings in that he doesn't depend excessively on the 3-point shot. Now he must be able to handle Missouri depending on him.

C Emeka Okafor 6-10/252 Jr. Connecticut 15.9 11.2 0.6

No current college player can affect a game in more ways. He had season bests as a sophomore of 25 points, 19 rebounds and nine blocks. Out of 33 games, Okafor failed to record a double-double only nine times. After demonstrating almost no offensive post game his first year, Okafor developed the ability to score on jump-hooks, face-up jumpers and up-and-under moves. The one obstacle to his dominance is a penchant for slipping into foul trouble. He accumulated at least four personals in 13 of his final 24 games; UConn was 6-7 when he hit that mark.

C Ike Diogu 6-8/250 So. Arizona State 19.0 7.8 0.8

Although he was outplayed by Missouri's Arthur Johnson with the U.S. Pan Am team, Diogu has established himself as a far more reliable college player—in only one season. Diogu dominated Pac-10 competition with six games of better than 25 points and 64 percent shooting in league games. He improved as a rebounder as the season progressed but still can be more productive there. And he'll have to get better handling the basketball against double-teams. He turned it over 2.8 times per game and, with the Sun Devils owning fewer perimeter threats, will face considerably more defensive attention.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	PPG	RPG	APG
G/F	Rashad McCants	6-4/205	So.	North Carolina	17.0	4.6	1.5
G	Ben Gordon	6-2/195	Jr.	Connecticut	19.5	4.2	4.7
F	Wayne Simien	6-9/225	Jr.	Kansas	14.8	8.2	1.5
F	Hakim Warrick	6-8/209	Jr.	Syracuse	14.8	8.5	1.6
C	Arthur Johnson	6-9/268	Sr.	Missouri	16.1	9.6	1.2

Ike Diogu

POINT GUARDS

Rk. Player, Ht./Wt., Year, School

1. Jameer Nelson, 6-0/190, Sr., Saint Joseph's
2. Raymond Felton, 6-0/185, So., North Carolina
3. Blake Stepp, 6-4/192, Sr., Gonzaga
4. Chris Thomas, 6-1/182, Jr., Notre Dame
5. Daniel Horton, 6-3/190, So., Michigan
6. Marcus Moore, 6-6/208, Sr., Washington State
7. Dee Brown, 6-0/175, So., Illinois
8. Andre Barrett, 5-10/172, Sr., Seton Hall
9. Chris Duhon, 6-1/190, Sr., Duke
10. Anthony Roberson, 6-1/180, So., Florida
11. Devin Harris, 6-3/175, Jr., Wisconsin
12. Mustafa Shakur, 6-3/175, Fr., Arizona
13. Travis Diener, 6-1/175, Jr., Marquette
14. Aaron Miles, 6-1/175, Jr., Kansas
15. Billy Edelin, 6-4/204, So., Syracuse
16. Bryan Hopkins, 6-0/195, So., SMU
17. Antonio Burks, 6-0/200, Sr., Memphis
18. Ramond Marshall, 6-2/180, Sr., Dayton
19. John Gilchrist, 6-3/190, So., Maryland
20. Tim Smith, 5-9/155, So., East Tennessee State

SHOOTING GUARDS

Rk. Player, Ht./Wt., Year, School

1. Rashad McCants, 6-3/190, So., North Carolina
2. Ben Gordon, 6-2/195, Jr., Connecticut
3. Bracey Wright, 6-3/195, So., Indiana
4. Julius Hodge, 6-6/191, Jr., N.C. State
5. J.J. Redick, 6-4/200, So., Duke
6. Andre Emmett, 6-5/225, Sr., Texas Tech
7. Antoine Wright, 6-7/195, So., Texas A&M
8. Justin Gray, 6-2/185, So., Wake Forest
9. Gerry McNamara, 6-2/179, So., Syracuse
10. Gerald Fitch, 6-3/188, Sr., Kentucky
11. Keith Langford, 6-4/205, Jr., Kansas
12. Deron Williams, 6-3/210, So., Illinois
13. Delonte West, 6-3/180, Jr., Saint Joseph's
14. Tim Pickett, 6-4/205, Sr., Florida State
15. Christian Drejer, 6-9/210, So., Florida
16. Tony Allen, 6-4/205, Sr., Oklahoma State
17. Salim Stoudamire, 6-1/176, Jr., Arizona
18. Julius Page, 6-3/191, Sr., Pittsburgh
19. Antonio Hudson, 6-5/206, Jr., LSU
20. Luis Flores, 6-2/175, Sr., Manhattan

SMALL FORWARDS

Rk. Player, Ht./Wt., Year, School

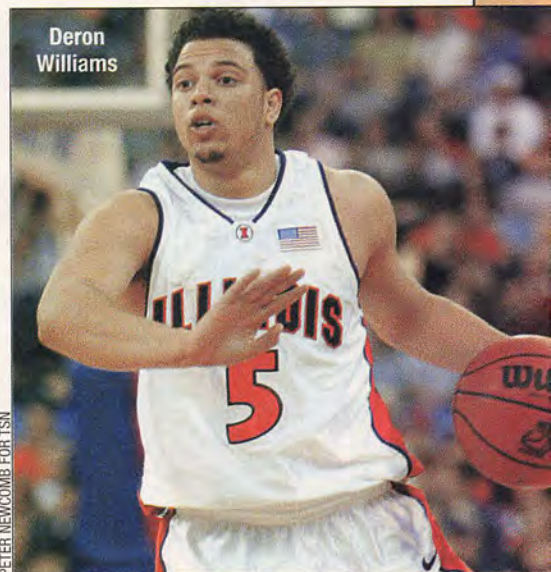
1. Rickey Paulding, 6-5/218, Sr., Missouri
2. Hakim Warrick, 6-8/209, Jr., Syracuse
3. Luke Jackson, 6-7/215, Sr., Oregon
4. Romain Sato, 6-5/205, Sr., Xavier
5. Josh Childress, 6-8/200, Jr., Stanford
6. Brandon Mouton, 6-4/205, Sr., Texas
7. Luol Deng, 6-8/220, Fr., Duke
8. Michel Morandais, 6-5/200, Sr., Colorado
9. Kennedy Winston, 6-6/205, So., Alabama
10. Andre Iguodala, 6-6/200, So., Arizona
11. Darius Rice, 6-10/222, Sr., Miami, Fla.
12. Dijon Thompson, 6-7/195, Jr., UCLA
13. Matt Walsh, 6-6/205, So., Florida
14. Erik Daniels, 6-8/214, Sr., Kentucky
15. Jaron Brown, 6-4/229, Sr., Pittsburgh
16. Alan Anderson, 6-6/220, Jr., Michigan State
17. Francisco Garcia, 6-7/175, So., Louisville
18. Alando Tucker, 6-5/195, So., Wisconsin
19. Steve Novak, 6-10/210, So., Marquette
20. Kirk Snyder, 6-6/225, Jr., Nevada

POWER FORWARDS

Rk. Player, Ht./Wt., Year, School

1. Wayne Simien, 6-9/225, Jr., Kansas
2. Ronny Turiaf, 6-10/243, Jr., Gonzaga
3. Craig Smith, 6-7/265, So., Boston College
4. Lawrence Roberts, 6-9/230, Jr., Mississippi State
5. David Lee, 6-9/240, Jr., Florida
6. Shavlik Randolph, 6-10/235, So., Duke
7. Chuck Hayes, 6-6/247, Jr., Kentucky
8. James Thomas, 6-8/235, Sr., Texas
9. Jason Maxiell, 6-7/240, Jr., Cincinnati
10. Matt Freije, 6-9/230, Sr., Vanderbilt
11. Leon Powe, 6-8/230, Fr., California
12. Kevin Bookout, 6-8/260, So., Oklahoma
13. Marco Killingsworth, 6-7/235, Jr., Auburn
14. Justin Reed, 6-8/240, Sr., Mississippi
15. Vytautas Danelius, 6-8/228, Jr., Wake Forest
16. Jawad Williams, 6-8/200, Jr., North Carolina
17. Steve Smith, 6-8/225, Jr., La Salle
18. Chevon Troutman, 6-7/236, Jr., Pittsburgh
19. Jamar Smith, 6-9/239, Sr., Maryland
20. James Augustine, 6-10/220, So., Illinois

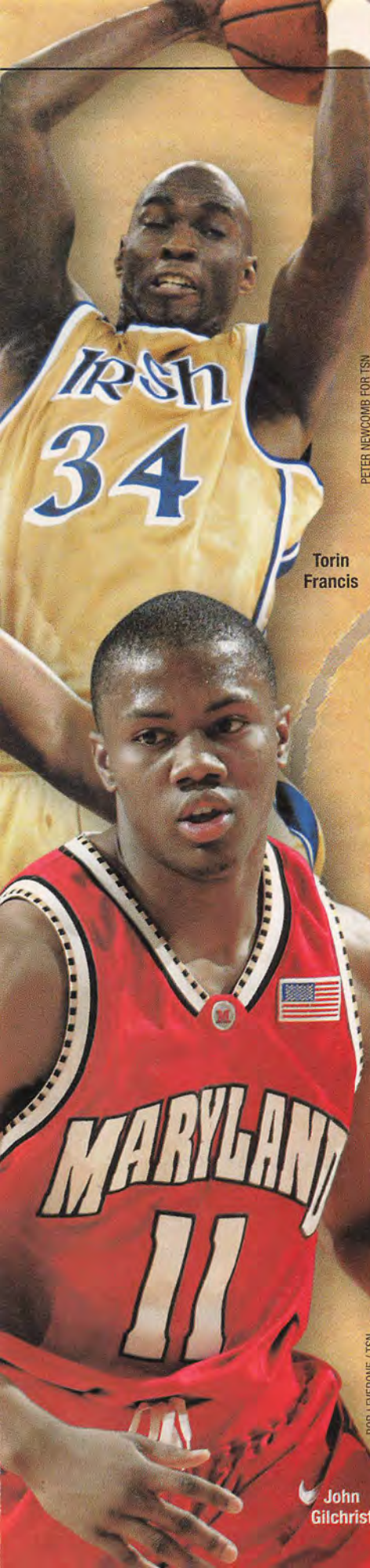
Deron Williams



CENTERS

Rk. Player, Ht./Wt., Year, School

1. Emeka Okafor, 6-10/252, Jr., Connecticut
2. Ike Diogu, 6-8/250, So., Arizona State
3. Arthur Johnson, 6-9/268, Sr., Missouri
4. Paul Davis, 6-11/250, So., Michigan State
5. Torin Francis, 6-10/240, So., Notre Dame
6. Sean May, 6-9/250, So., North Carolina
7. David Harrison, 7-0/250, Jr., Colorado
8. Eric Williams, 6-9/270, So., Wake Forest
9. Channing Frye, 6-10/238, Jr., Arizona
10. Shelden Williams, 6-9/245, So., Duke
11. Andrew Bogut, 6-9/205, Fr., Utah
12. Scott Merritt, 6-10/245, Sr., Marquette
13. Jabahri Brown, 6-10/210, Sr., Oklahoma
14. Matt Nelson, 7-0/255, Jr., Colorado State
15. Robert Whaley, 6-10/260, Jr., Cincinnati
16. Ryan Gomes, 6-7/245, Jr., Providence
17. Rafael Araujo, 6-11/265, Sr., BYU
18. Brad Buckman, 6-8/235, So., Texas
19. Jason Fraser, 6-10/225, So., Villanova
20. Keith Butler, 7-0/250, So., Temple



Torin Francis

John Gilchrist

UNIT RANKINGS

By Kyle Veltrop
(projected starters in bold)

1. NORTH CAROLINA

(**Raymond Felton**, **Rashad McCants**, Melvin Scott). The possibilities of what Felton and McCants can do in Roy Williams' uptempo offense are endless. The supremely gifted Felton will have the freedom to attack, attack, attack. McCants had some maturity issues last season, but even then he thrived as a scorer. Here's betting Williams will keep McCants in line—and make him even better.

2. DUKE (Sean Dockery, **Chris Duhon**, **Daniel Ewing**, **J.J. Redick**). Duhon regressed as a playmaker, defender and shooter last season, but he should figure things out again as a senior. Even if he doesn't, Dockery is around as insurance. Redick is one of the nation's top long-range shooters. When he's on, good luck beating the Devils. Ewing provides experience and more long-range touch. He'll play close to starter's minutes—or he could start.

3. SAINT JOSEPH'S (Tyrone Barley, **Jameer Nelson**, **Delonte West**). The Hawks will be a national factor again because of Nelson's decision to return for his senior season. He's able to break down defenders with his strength, and he's a capable shooter and creative ballhandler. The guy is clutch. West is one Hawk who flies under the radar, but he knows how to fill up a scoring column.

4. ILLINOIS (Dee Brown, Richard McBride, **Deron Williams**). How do you defend Brown? His great range comes into play if you sag off him. Play him too close and he'll scoot right by you with his ridiculous quickness. The sturdy Williams fills numerous roles with his all-around skills. As freshmen, Brown and Williams were a load. Just wait till you see them as sophomores.

5. SYRACUSE (Billy Edelin, **Gerry McNamara**, Josh Pace). McNamara set the tone for Syracuse's national championship by hitting six 3-pointers in the first half of the title game against Kansas. He's a great long-range shooter and competitor who also will help Edelin with playmaking responsibilities. After missing a year and a half because of NCAA suspension, Edelin was a factor down the stretch. He has uncommon strength for a point guard. Pace shot 63.9 percent during the NCAA Tournament.

6. KANSAS (Jeremy Case, **Keith Langford**, Michael Lee, **Aaron Miles**, Omar Wilkes). Langford isn't a great shooter, but he's a great scorer. Miles has his faults and occasionally springs a leak, but he has been the quarterback on back-to-back Final Four teams. Lee came on strong late last season; look for him to build on that. Freshmen Case and Wilkes will get time if they can prove to be reliable shooters, something the Jayhawks lack.

7. ARIZONA (Hassan Adams, Chris Rodgers, **Mustafa Shakur**, **Salim Stoudamire**). Shakur will be one of the top impact freshmen in the country, and he'll run the Wildcats from Day 1. Stoudamire is a steady scorer. Adams appears primed for a breakout, and he could push Stoudamire for minutes. If Rodgers accepts a lesser role, he'll be a valued member of the backcourt.

8. FLORIDA (Ryan Appleby, **Christian Drejer**, Lee Humphrey, **Anthony Roberson**). Drejer was held back by injuries as a freshman, but he's ready to live up to his hype. He has a great feel for the game and should take off as a scorer. Even while deferring to seniors Justin Hamilton and Brett Nelson, Roberson flashed a wild side last season. But he also flashed a load of talent.

9. MICHIGAN STATE (Maurice Ager, Shannon Brown, Brandon Cotton, **Chris Hill**, **Kelvin Torbert**). The Spartans have about three teams' worth of shooting guards. The depth and breadth of talent is impressive—and also problematic for Tom Izzo when it comes to divvying up playing time. Hill isn't flashy, but he's the leader who gets the job done. Ager and Brown will be hard to keep off the floor. They are young, but they can play. Torbert, a two-year starter, could feel the squeeze.

10. INDIANA (Donald Perry, **Marshall Strickland**, **Roderick Wilmont**, **Bracey Wright**). Before he was bothered by back problems, Wright was the nation's second-best freshman after Carmelo Anthony. Wright fit right in with a veteran team last season, and now he's ready to carry the Hoosiers. Strickland is primed for a breakout season after learning behind Tom Coverdale last season.



Raymond Felton

BOB LEVERONE/TSN

Ten other formidable backcourts (listed alphabetically)

- Connecticut:** Rashad Anderson, Taliek Brown, Ben Gordon.
- Georgia Tech:** Will Bynum, B.J. Elder, Jarrett Jack.
- Gonzaga:** Kyle Bankhead, Erroll Knight, Tony Skinner, Blake Stepp.
- Kentucky:** Antwain Barbour, Gerald Fitch, Cliff Hawkins.
- Memphis:** Antonio Burks, Jeremy Hunt, Billy Richmond.
- Missouri:** Jason Conley, Thomas Gardner, Jimmy McKinney, Randy Pulley.
- N.C. State:** Engin Atsurs, Julius Hodge, Scooter Sherrill.
- Oklahoma State:** Tony Allen, Daniel Bobik, Stevie Graham, Janavor Weatherspoon.
- Wake Forest:** Taron Downey, Justin Gray, Chris Paul, Trent Strickland.
- Wisconsin:** Devin Harris, Freddie Owens, Boo Wade.

Bracey Wright



JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

FRONTCOURT

1. MISSOURI (Travon Bryant, Arthur Johnson, Linas Kleiza, Rickey Paulding, Kevin Young). Johnson pounds his way around inside and then finishes with a soft touch. Paulding is a high-flier who also can bury the 3 with regularity. When he plays with a take-charge mentality, Paulding can dominate. Bryant doesn't always play to his talent level, but this season he'll be pushed hard by Kleiza, an instant impact freshman.

2. DUKE (Luol Deng, Nick Horvath, Shavlik Randolph, Michael Thompson, Shelden Williams). Williams is a steady power player who operates as the enforcer inside. Deng and a now healthy Randolph offer great promise. They are big and skilled and versatile. Matchup problems loom large for Duke opponents. Thompson would start for most teams.

3. CONNECTICUT (Hilton Armstrong, Denham Brown, Emeka Okafor, Marcus White, Charlie Villanueva). Okafor sets the standard this season in college basketball. He's the best shot blocker in years, and he's a dominant rebounder. His offense seemingly improves every time he laces 'em up. Brown is a complementary part with nice skills. White is a rebounding machine who emerged in last season's second half. If Villanueva, a late-signing McDonald's All-American, can play selflessly, look out for the Huskies.

4. TEXAS (Brian Boddicker, Brad Buckman, Jason Klotz, Brandon Mouton, James Thomas). Wow, everything is big in Texas. The Longhorns' front line is proof of that. Thomas rebounds with passion. Mouton is the go-to scorer. Buckman, the team's best low-post scorer, is on the verge of breaking out as a sophomore. Boddicker doesn't use his muscle enough, but his 3-pointers often find the bottom of the net.

5. CINCINNATI (Eric Hicks, Kareem Johnson, Jason Maxiell, Mike Pilgrim, Robert Whaley, James White). Explosive. That's what Whaley and White are on the court. Unfortunately, that's what they are for Bob Huggins off the court, as well. Whaley battled legal problems in the past, and White has had a questionable attitude. But if the two stay in Huggins' good graces, the Bearcats will be a load. Whaley is a power player with the skills to be dominant. No one can put on a high-wire show like

White. Oh yeah, and Maxiell should be the best of the bunch this season.

6. GONZAGA (Richard Fox, Sean Mallon, Adam Morrison, Ronny Turiaf, Cory Violette). If he played in a bigger market, in a higher-profile league, Turiaf would be known as one of the top players around. He establishes position inside and finishes with a deft assortment of moves and explosions to the basket. Foul trouble, though, is something he must shake. Violette is a great system player who has been integral in the Bulldogs' recent success. Freshman Morrison could contribute right away.



Jeff Graves

7. KANSAS (J.R. Giddens, Jeff Graves, Bryant Nash, David Padgett, Wayne Simien). Simien's and Padgett's past injuries and Graves' propensity for landing in foul trouble knock down the Jayhawks a bit. But if those three can stay in the rotation, they will serve as the perfect complements to the backcourt of Aaron Miles and Keith Langford. Simien, assuming his shoulder woes are over, is ready to challenge for first-team All-American status.

8. FLORIDA (Mohamed Abukar, Mario Boggan, Bonnell Colas, David Lee, Chris Richard, Matt Walsh). Maybe before Lee's eligibility is done, Florida will realize he's its most skilled player and should rank higher than fourth on the team in shots. He can finish with either hand, has great post-up moves, can drift out to 15 feet and explode to the rim. Yet, he too often ends up watching long jumpers getting hoisted over him by his teammates. Walsh had a productive freshman season, and he has a scorer's mentality. Abukar has

the most potential of the rest of the front-line members.

9. OKLAHOMA (Kevin Bookout, Jabahri Brown, Jason Detrick, Johnnie Gilbert, Larry Turner). Bookout is a bruiser but an athletic one. He should find consistency as a sophomore as he becomes more of a focal point. Detrick is another solid scorer with a nice midrange game. The long, lean Brown runs the floor well, defends hard (he is a Sooner, after all) and swats shots.

10. CALIFORNIA (Conor Famulener, Gabriel Hughes, Dominic McGuire, Leon Powe, Amit Tamir). Remember Powe's name. He won't have a Carmelo Anthony-type impact as a freshman, but he likely will be the top first-year player this season. He opts for power and toughness over frills, and that's something Cal needs. Tamir is a great shooter for someone who's 6-11, but he needs to contribute more inside 15 feet. Hughes is an athletic shot blocker who contributes size.

Ten other formidable frontcourts (listed alphabetically)

Colorado: Glean Eddy, Lamar Harris, David Harrison, Michel Morandais.

Louisville: Nate Daniels, Kendall Darte, Nouha Diakite, Francisco Garcia, Ellis Myles, Luke Whitehead.

Michigan State: Jason Andreas, Alan Anderson, Paul Davis, Delco Rowley.

North Carolina: Jackie Manuel, Sean May, David Noel, Jawad Williams.

Ohio State: Terence Dials, Ivan Harris, Shun Jenkins, Velimir Radinovic, Matt Sylvester.

Pittsburgh: Jaron Brown, Dante Milligan, Toree Morris, Chris Taft, Chevon Troutman.

Stanford: Josh Childress, Justin Davis, Matt Haryasz, Joe Kirchofer, Rob Little.

Syracuse: Craig Forth, Louie McCroskey, Jeremy McNeil, Demetris Nichols, Terrence Roberts, Hakim Warrick.

UCLA: Trevor Ariza, T.J. Cummings, Ryan Hollins, Dijon Thompson.

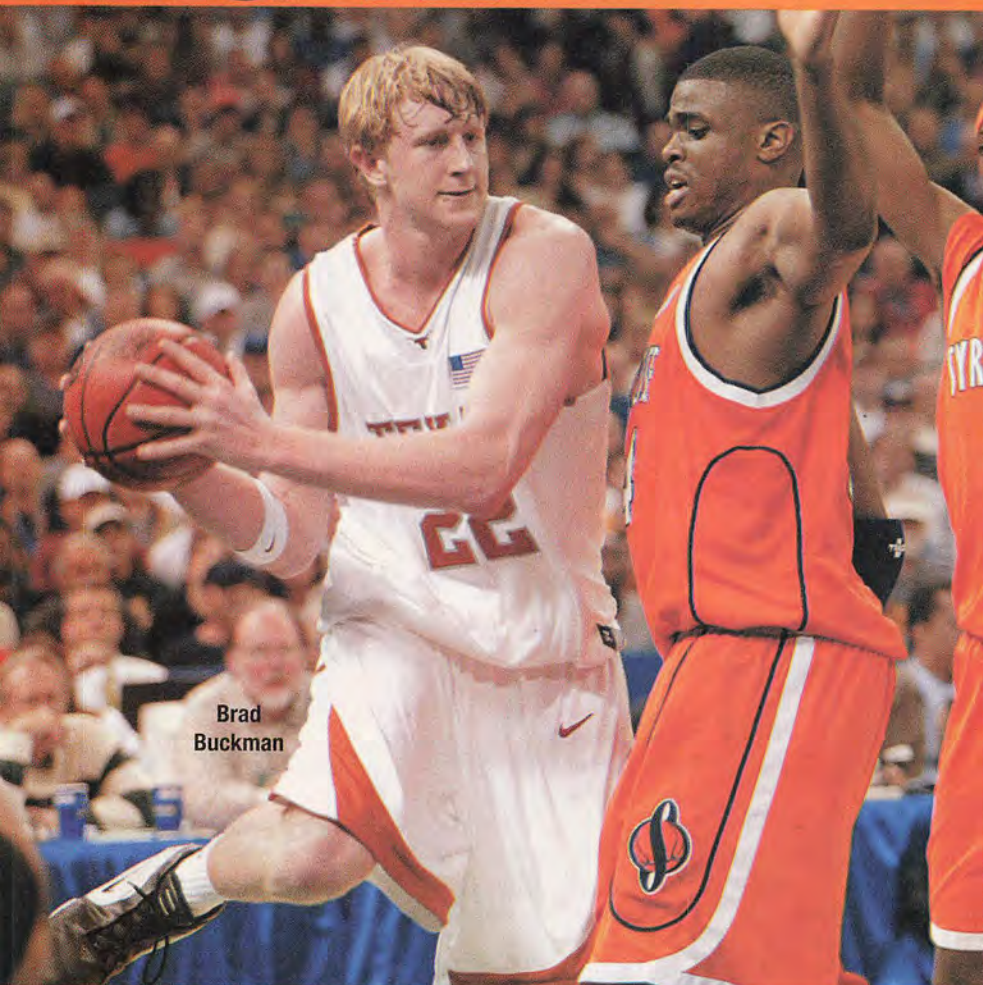
Wake Forest: Vytas Danelius, Chris Ellis, Jamaal Levy, Eric Williams.

Wisconsin: Brian Butch, Dave Mader, Zach Morley, Alando Tucker, Mike Wilkinson.



Marcus White

BIG 12



Brad
Buckman

Missouri gives the league its best shot to break through

Of the past eight teams that advanced to the Final Four, four were from the Big 12. But Oklahoma and Kansas left Atlanta in 2002 without cutting down the nets, and Texas and the Jayhawks departed New Orleans last April without winning it all. That extended the conference members' national title drought to 15 seasons.

Because Roy Williams took his 418 career victories and four Final Four trips from Kansas to North Carolina, it appears that ending that dry spell will be even more difficult this season—though some might say it improves the odds, considering Williams' reputation for always coming up short.

The Jayhawks hardly got a clunker on their coaching trade-in. Instead, they got another luxury model with fewer miles. Bill Self is a rising star; his resume of averaging 20 wins in his first 10 seasons backs that up.

Kirk Hinrich and Nick Collison, two of the top players in Kansas' esteemed history, are gone, and T.J. Ford, the national player of the year, zipped out of Texas. Still, those programs aren't going away, and neither is Oklahoma, despite the loss of Hollis Price. The team to watch, though, is Missouri. Quin Snyder enters his fifth year of building that program, and he has the pieces in place to win big, as in all-the-way big.

ASCENDING: Missouri. Under Snyder, the best the Tigers have finished is tied for fifth in the Big 12, so anointing them as national title contenders might seem out of whack. But how many other teams have what they have? Center Arthur Johnson and forward Rickey Paulding are two of the top 10 players in the nation. Forward Travon Bryant and guard Jimmy McKinney are solid role players. This Tigers team has experience and depth, including VMI transfer Jason Conley, who led the nation in scoring two years ago and will be eligible in December. This team also should be rid of the selfish play that has dogged it, first from Clarence Gilbert and Kareem Rush

2002-03 team statistics

Offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Kansas	38	49.4	65.6	33.5	41.8	17.1	9.8	5.1	14.8	82.7
Texas	33	44.6	72.1	35.6	42.0	14.5	6.2	3.7	13.1	79.3
Colorado	32	44.3	66.9	32.6	42.2	13.3	6.1	6.7	14.0	75.2
Texas Tech	35	46.8	66.3	31.4	34.6	16.1	8.5	2.4	11.5	72.6
Missouri	33	44.4	66.2	36.1	39.4	13.7	5.6	4.4	13.8	72.3
Texas A&M	28	42.7	69.0	36.3	36.6	16.0	6.3	2.1	14.9	72.0
Iowa State	31	45.5	67.7	37.6	36.4	12.0	5.6	5.5	13.2	70.5
Oklahoma	34	44.6	69.3	39.2	36.8	14.2	7.0	3.6	12.1	70.4
Kansas State	30	45.8	62.9	36.1	37.1	15.4	4.9	3.6	13.2	69.6
Oklahoma State	32	44.8	65.0	36.6	34.9	12.7	8.9	5.4	14.8	69.5
Baylor	28	40.7	72.5	34.2	34.9	14.2	8.3	3.0	13.3	69.0
Nebraska	30	39.8	64.9	27.6	38.1	11.2	6.3	3.2	14.4	63.3

Defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Oklahoma	34	41.2	66.8	32.1	32.3	10.4	5.5	2.6	13.9	60.0
Oklahoma State	32	39.4	66.1	34.1	35.7	16.8	6.7	3.6	16.8	62.6
Texas Tech	35	43.4	68.8	34.7	35.4	13.1	5.7	3.1	16.9	66.1
Iowa State	31	42.3	66.5	34.4	33.4	12.3	6.9	4.0	13.8	66.2
Kansas State	30	40.1	68.9	34.5	34.3	13.1	6.1	4.0	12.5	66.2
Kansas	38	40.2	69.8	36.3	33.9	12.0	6.9	4.3	16.9	66.9
Missouri	33	40.8	67.7	33.3	36.1	13.3	6.8	2.9	13.2	67.7
Baylor	28	45.1	65.3	32.5	37.6	13.8	5.6	3.1	14.7	68.4
Nebraska	30	40.8	70.6	30.2	39.0	14.0	6.6	4.8	13.5	68.5
Texas	33	41.5	66.5	34.9	35.1	11.1	6.9	3.2	13.8	69.7
Colorado	32	40.2	68.4	34.5	36.8	13.4	6.0	3.3	12.5	70.3
Texas A&M	28	43.6	66.8	33.1	39.6	16.6	7.2	3.6	14.8	73.2

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Kansas	14	2	30	8
Texas	13	3	26	7
Oklahoma	12	4	27	7
Oklahoma State	10	6	22	10
Missouri	9	7	22	11
Colorado	9	7	20	12
Texas Tech	6	10	22	13
Texas A&M	6	10	14	14
Iowa State	5	11	17	13
Baylor	5	11	14	14
Kansas State	4	12	13	17
Nebraska	3	13	11	19

two seasons ago and from Ricky Clemons last year. The one concern: Can junior college transfer Randy Pulley handle the point?

DESCENDING: Baylor. This season was supposed to be built on hope, largely because of the presence of star forward Lawrence Roberts. Then, Waco was gripped by a string of events that were as hellish as any college sports program has endured. Patrick Dennehy, who sat out last year as a transfer from New Mexico, was murdered. Carlton Dotson, a former Bear, was arrested and charged with killing his teammate. Coach Dave Bliss resigned, then was found to have attempted a cover-up of severe wrongdoing within his program. Several players, including Roberts, left the program.

PLAYERS ON THE RISE:

1. Brad Buckman, F, Texas. Fans got their last glimpse of T.J. Ford in a Longhorns uniform at the Final Four, but Brad Buckman, a freshman then, offered enough encouragement for the future by scoring 14 points on 6-for-6 shooting and grabbing seven rebounds in 23 minutes in the loss to Syracuse. Buckman has enough bang to his game to survive inside, plus he is active and bouncy enough to frustrate opposing big men who aren't as athletic. James Thomas

is great, but he's not in there for his offense. Buckman is ready to be the consistent low-post scorer the 'Horns need.

2. De'Angelo Alexander, G, Oklahoma. With Hollis Price and Ebi Ere gone, the Sooners need scoring from the wing. After showing flashes of his ability last season, Alexander should provide steady streams of scoring to ease their losses. Alexander is a capable deep shooter, and his well-built 6-4 frame enables him to get into the lane. Alexander has tremendous confidence; he's the kind of guy who wants to take the big shot—even if he missed the last big shot. He played extensively on the summer-league circuit with fellow Oklahoman Kevin Bookout when they were growing up, and they should form an excellent perimeter/interior duo for the next three years in Norman.

3. Antoine Wright, G/F, Texas A&M. With Bernard King gone, this is Wright's team. Wright was the unanimous pick as the Big 12 Freshman of the Year last season, and he is being mentioned as a future NBA lottery pick. He needs to refine his touch and shot selection and add weight, but there's little doubt that stardom awaits. **TSN**

E-mail associate editor Kyle Veltrop at kveltrop@sportingnews.com.

RANKING THE 2003 RECRUITING CLASSES By Mike Sullivan, Rivals.com

- 1. Missouri.** Thomas Gardner, Randy Pulley, Jason Conley and Spencer Laurie make this a terrific class. But it's Linas Kleiza, one of the top 30 players in the country, who makes the class special.
- 2. Oklahoma.** Andrew Lavender is an outstanding lead guard with great quickness, and classmate Brandon Foust finishes well in transition. Lawrence McKenzie has a jumper with NBA range.
- 3. Kansas.** J.R. Giddens and David Padgett are immediate impact players. Giddens can score points in bunches, and Padgett is a tough competitor who someday will be an NBA player.
- 4. Iowa State.** Will Blalock and Curtis Stinson give the Cyclones a solid backcourt for the future. Big men Reggie George and Damion Staple also will add strength along the front line.
- 5. Kansas State.** This is a solid class with numbers. Cartier Martin and Lance Harris were impressive during the AAU sessions and their high school senior seasons. Both will be big parts of the program.
- 6. Texas A&M.** Lakeith Blanks is an agile recruit who can play several positions. Acie Law, Bobby Leach, Justin Loewe and Marlon Pompey are players the program will count on in the future.
- 7. Nebraska.** Charles Richardson is quick; Marcus Neal is solid offensively and will help immediately.
- 8. Texas.** It's only a two-recruit class, but both players are tough and should contribute.
- 9. Oklahoma State.** This three-forward class has nice size and nice upside.
- 10. Texas Tech.** There aren't a lot of big names, but they all fit nicely into Bobby Knight's system.
- 11. Colorado.** Keith Smith has nice size, and Marcus Hall has quickness.
- 12. Baylor.** Keeping Carl Marshall and junior college transfer Harvey Thomas is a victory this season.

Best bets

1. Some Oklahoma State supporters will grumble about Eddie Sutton's grind-it-out ways and his recent failures to land some top in-state recruits. There will be more whispers for the need for the Cowboys to go in a new direction when Sutton retires and that his son and assistant, Sean Sutton, shouldn't be the heir apparent. Despite that talk around the league and Stillwater, Sutton will lead OSU to another 20-win season and the NCAAAs.

2. Texas A&M won't miss Bernard King. Yes,

he's the all-time leading scorer in the program, not to mention Big 12 history, but his ways grated on his teammates. King did a lot for the program, but a system that relies on more scoring options will better serve the Aggies. They are better off going in a new direction, led by small forward Antoine Wright.

3. Kansas' Aaron Miles never will be appreciated more. Point guard is the biggest question facing Missouri, Texas and Oklahoma (and Colorado and Texas Tech ...), but the Jayhawks are set. Miles has been derided for poor shooting and inconsistency, but he's a pretty darned good player.

Predictions

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Missouri* | 8. Texas A&M |
| 2. Kansas* | 9. Kansas State |
| 3. Oklahoma* | 10. Iowa State |
| 4. Texas* | 11. Nebraska |
| 5. Colorado* | 12. Baylor |
| 6. Oklahoma State* | *NCAA Tournament pick |
| 7. Texas Tech | |

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Keith Langford, Kansas	6-4	205	Jr.
G	Andre Emmett, Texas Tech	6-5	225	Sr.
C	Arthur Johnson, Missouri	6-9	268	Jr.
F	Wayne Simien, Kansas	6-9	255	Sr.
F	Rickey Paulding, Missouri	6-5	218	Sr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
F	Brandon Mouton, Texas	6-4	205	Sr.
G/F	Antoine Wright, Texas A&M	6-7	195	So.
C	David Harrison, Colorado	7-0	250	Jr.
F	Kevin Bookout, Oklahoma	6-8	260	So.
F/G	Michel Morandais, Colorado	6-5	200	Sr.

Player spotlight

Player of the year

Arthur Johnson

Johnson came to Columbia with a soft body. Now the only soft things about him are his hands and touch. Johnson's body and game have improved each season. Though power best defines his play, Johnson also has a jump hook and has added a baseline jumper. His long arms help him as a rebounder and shot blocker.

No one thinks of the word "soft" when it comes to Johnson anymore. The word that comes to opponents' minds when they describe what it's like to guard him is "hard."

Newcomer of the year

J.R. Giddens, G/F, Kansas

Bill Self heavily recruited Giddens, a fellow Oklahoma native, when Self was coaching at Illinois. He lost out then, but now he's glad. Giddens likely will slide into the lineup spot vacated by star Kirk Hinrich. Giddens, a McDonald's All-American, not only can slash to the basket and finish above the rim, he is an adept long-range shooter, something the Jayhawks desperately need.

Most underrated

Tony Allen, G, Oklahoma State

Allen isn't overwhelmingly athletic, but he knows how to play the game and meshed with the Cowboys after transferring from junior college. He resists forcing shots, particularly from long range. Instead, he uses his strength to get into position for midrange shots—or he goes all the way to the basket. Allen can knock down the perimeter shot if his defender plays the drive. He uses his stocky build to get good rebounding position. With Victor Williams gone, look for Allen to be the team's go-to guy.



1. Missouri

WHAT WE LIKE: Two of the nation's top 10 players will reside in Columbia this season; Arthur Johnson and Rickey Paulding give the Tigers one of the best 1-2 punches around. Johnson has the potential to be a dominant big man. He progressively has improved each season. Johnson uses his big body to establish position inside, and his soft touch makes him potent on baby hooks in the lane or on turn-arounds on the baseline. He also is improving when facing the basket. Long arms make Johnson an effective rebounder and shot blocker.

Paulding can explode past a defender and finish with a stunning move. He also is a dangerous 3-point shooter. The supporting cast is more than good enough for this team to be a Final Four contender. Jimmy McKinney knows how to play. He isn't flashy but plays a complete game. His offense should be more potent and consistent as a sophomore. Travon Bryant is a former McDonald's All-American who came on as a low-post threat last season. He can take his defender out to the top of the key, where Bryant is a dangerous shooter. Two newcomers figure to have significant roles. Jason Conley, who will be eligible in December after transferring from VMI, led the nation in scoring two years ago. He will add offensive punch from the wing, and he plays big for a guard. Linas Kleiza should be an instant-impact freshman. Kleiza can contribute inside and on the perimeter. While playing for the Lithuanian junior national team in the summer, he averaged 29.1 points. Quin Snyder has gotten his Missouri teams to peak at the right time. What could separate this unit from previous ones, though, is the lack of a player who displays selfish tendencies on the court. Recently, Clarence Gilbert, Kareem Rush and Ricky Clemons have been too shot-happy for the Tigers. Snyder has been pointing to this, his fifth year in the program, as the season when everything

would come together. He should be right because the experience and talent certainly are in place.

WHAT SCARES US: Missouri has known commodities at every position except point guard, which probably is the most important one. Taking over there is Randy Pulley, who averaged 5.0 points and 2.3 assists playing for Saint Louis two seasons ago. Last year, he was in junior college. Pulley is stocky and billed as a pass-first performer, which the team needs. But it's unknown whether he can lead this team to its potential. Once Conley is available, it will be intriguing to see how Snyder divides up the minutes and how the players parcel out shots. There are a lot of players with scoring ability, which should be good but could be problematic if they don't adopt the all-for-one concept. Bryant is talented, but he's too passive. Even Paulding needs to be nudged to take a leading role. Missouri is a dangerous 3-point shooting team but has relied too much on that shot. With a wide-body like Johnson inside, he needs to get touches first. Defensively, this was an average team last year, one that too often allowed easy baskets inside. The Tigers haven't put together a complete season under Snyder, who is 5-21 in his career against league heavyweights Kansas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Texas. The Tigers, in fact, haven't finished above fifth in Big 12 play under Snyder. To have them jumping up to be one of the nation's elite is a lot to ask.

X-FACTOR: After a season in which Clemons was erratic, arrested, suspended and injured, one which he closed by shooting 3-for-18 in the NCAA Tournament, you would have thought he was done damaging the program. He's not. There are allegations that Missouri's coaches repeatedly broke NCAA rules during Clemons' recruitment and stay on campus. This came after it was learned that the team broke rules by contacting Conley's mother before he had gotten his release from VMI. And after Missouri self-reported other minor infractions related to recruiting. At the least, Snyder has been running a sloppy program; at the worst, he has been running a shady one. All of this may not affect this season much. But it will be a distraction.

Schedule

N29 at Oakland
D2 Coppin State
D6 at Indiana
D13 Gonzaga*
D27 at Memphis
D30 Belmont
J3 Iowa
J7 at Iowa State
J10 Texas A&M
J12 Syracuse
J17 at Oklahoma
J20 Texas
J24 Nebraska
J28 at Colorado
J31 Kansas State
F2 at Kansas
F7 at Nebraska
F10 Colorado
F15 UNLV
F18 Iowa State
F21 at Baylor
F24 Oklahoma State
F28 at Kansas State
M2 at Texas Tech
M7 Kansas
*at Seattle

Rickey Paulding



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

A Big 12 coach says: Arthur Johnson just gets better every year. At the Nike camp, he looked like he lost 30 pounds. Randy Pulley is a heck of a point guard. He's very strong—a strong kid who makes great decisions. He's going to fit because he's got Jimmy McKinney and Rickey Paulding on the wings. They're going to make him look really good. I don't think Pulley is bad enough as a shooter that you can double off, but if you do to deal with Arthur, it'll have to be from him. They were young in the past. I think this is a major step to keep Arthur and Rickey into their senior seasons.

Tigers data

Coach: Quin Snyder (84-49, 4 years; NCAA Tournament 5-4).

Assistant coaches: Tony Harvey (4 years), Lane Odom (3), Marcus Perez (3).

2002-03 record: 22-11. Big 12: 9-7/T5th. Lost to Marquette in NCAA Midwest second round.

Last regular-season title: 1994 (Big Eight).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Columbia, Mo.

Home court: Hearn Center (13,545).

Website: www.mutigers.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
5	F	Travon Bryant*	6-9/244	Sr.	8.9	5.8	1.1	47.9	56.1	36.0
2	G	Jason Conley	6-5/210	Jr.	VMI transfer can light it up when he's on.					
32	F/C	Jeffrey Ferguson	6-10/245	Jr.	1.4	2.3	0.1	36.7	36.4	16.7
3	G	Thomas Gardner	6-5/210	Fr.	Has good size for a shooting guard.					
50	C	Arthur Johnson*	6-9/268	Sr.	16.1	9.6	1.2	49.3	56.8	—
41	F	Linas Kleiza	6-8/245	Fr.	Should be one of nation's best freshmen.					
15	G	Josh Kroenke	6-4/197	Sr.	3.5	2.4	1.7	42.9	64.5	45.3
10	G	Spencer Laurie	6-1/170	Fr.	Best high schooler in Mo. last season.					
1	G	Jimmy McKinney*	6-3/200	So.	8.6	3.8	3.4	40.5	77.9	33.1
23	G/F	Rickey Paulding*	6-5/218	Sr.	17.4	5.5	2.2	45.0	80.0	38.9
21	G	Randy Pulley	6-2/213	Jr.	Transfer expected to be pass-first point.					
14	F/C	Kevin Young	6-9/275	So.	2.3	3.2	0.3	55.7	37.5	—

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Ricky Clemons*	5-11/168	14.2	2.9	3.8	37.8	80.2	34.1
G	Najeeb Echols	6-7/234	3.1	2.8	1.1	52.6	52.4	0.0

2. Kansas

WHAT WE LIKE: A solid nucleus returns from back-to-back Final Four teams. The headliner is Keith Langford, a wonderfully diverse scorer. Langford isn't a great long-range shooter, though he's improving. But he can corkscrew through defenses with a variety of spins and cuts. The lefty Langford is great in transition, and he can score in traffic with his ability to hang in the air and release shots from many angles. Aaron Miles is maligned for his spotty shooting and his inconsistent ways, but he makes plays that win games, which is the No. 1 responsibility of a point guard. Look for his efficiency to improve as he embraces a leadership role. If Wayne Simien can stay on the floor, he is ready to emerge as one of the nation's most dominating players. He's strong inside and has a wide array of post moves. When he catches the ball deep in the paint, it's as good as a bucket. Simien runs the floor well for a big man, and he rebounds forcefully. Center Jeff Graves and reserve wing Michael Lee are sound role players with thick bodies and improving games. New coach Bill Self convinced all of Roy Williams' recruits to honor their commitments to Kansas. That's huge considering their talent. J.R. Giddens, who should start from Day 1, and David Padgett both were McDonald's All-Americans. The Jayhawks didn't get, or need, much production from their newcomers last season, but this class is of the caliber of Langford, Simien and Miles two years ago, or perhaps even on the level of Kirk Hinrich, Drew Gooden and Nick Collison four seasons ago.

Schedule

N21 Chattanooga
N25 Michigan State
D1 at TCU
D6 Stanford*
D13 at Oregon
D20-21 Wolf Pack Classic**
D29 Binghamton
J5 at Colorado
J14 Kansas State
J17 at Texas A&M
J25 Colorado
J28 at Kansas State
J31 at Iowa State
F2 Missouri
F7 Texas Tech
F9 at Oklahoma State
F15 at Nebraska
F18 Baylor
F21 Iowa State
F23 at Texas
F29 Oklahoma
M3 Nebraska
M7 at Missouri
*at Los Angeles
**at Reno, Nev.

WHAT SCARES US: Hinrich and Collison were two of the top players in Kansas history, which is quite a mouthful considering the program. If you

paid too much attention to one of them, the other one would burn you. They continually came up with clutch baskets, and that will have to be replaced. The inside game potentially is dominant, but it could fall apart. Simien's first two seasons have been plagued by injury. He was limited to 16 games last season and sat out the postseason because of a dislocated right shoulder that required surgery. As a freshman, Simien had to overcome knee surgery. Even his high school career was checkered by injuries. Padgett saw his senior season in high school cut short because of a knee injury, which required arthroscopic surgery. As a junior in high school, he missed the second half of his season because of a dislocated knee cap. What Graves does—rebounding, setting screens, defending inside—he does well. But it's hard to be a consistent contributor when on the bench in foul trouble, which he is far too often. He must avoid the lazy fouls where he reaches instead of moves his feet and the dumb ones where he fouls someone 15 feet from the basket. Unless Giddens or fellow freshmen Jeremy Case or Omar Wilkes displays a deft touch from long range, 3-point shooting figures to be a weakness. Free-throw shooting cost this team a national championship last season. The Jayhawks need to be better from the charity stripe, particularly Langford, Graves and Simien.

X-FACTOR: How will the team handle the transition from Williams to Self? Simien and Langford were crushed by Williams' leaving, as were almost all of the Jayhawks' passionate supporters. Williams had become Kansas basketball. Self already has proved to be a top coach, but this will be the most difficult task of his career. The Jayhawks are built to win now, and Self can't afford a slow start. It also will be intriguing to see how the players handle the transition from Williams' style to Self's. Under Williams, Kansas had come to be known as the standard-bearer for uptempo basketball. It pushed the ball better than any other team. Self isn't averse to this style, but his Illinois teams were more often characterized for their ferociousness than their fast break. The holdover players likely will be motivated to show that they had a fair amount to do with Kansas' recent success, and that it wasn't all because of Williams. But there's a reason Williams is a future Hall of Famer. The man can coach.



Aaron Miles

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

A Big 12 coach says: Losing Nick Collison and Kirk Hinrich is a big load. How long can Wayne Simien go? If he's healthy, that's a whole new team. If Simien gets hurt, they're in trouble. Jeff Graves is good, but he's not the inside scorer. It'll be interesting to see how Aaron Miles and Keith Langford are now that Collison isn't there inside and Hinrich isn't right there next to them. The way Illinois played with Self, they played that tough, hard-nosed D. Kansas plays that tough, hard-nosed D. People say they don't, but it's because it gets overshadowed by how many points they score.

Jayhawks data

Coach: Bill Self (1st year; 207-105 overall, 10 years; NCAA Tournament record 10-5).

Assistant coaches: Norm Roberts (1st), Tim Jankovich (1st), Joe Dooley (1st).

2002-03 record: 30-8. Big 12: 14-2/1st. Lost to Syracuse in

NCAA final.

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1989.

Site: Lawrence, Kan.

Home court: Allen Fieldhouse (16,300).

Website: www.kuathletics.com

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
21	G	Nick Bahe	6-3/185	Fr.	An invited walk-on from Nebraska.					
10	G	Jeremy Case	6-0/160	Fr.	Impressive ballhandler and passer.					
15	G/F	J.R. Giddens	6-5/185	Fr.	Explosive, versatile wing with vertical.					
42	F	Jeff Graves*	6-9/275	Sr.	6.0	6.8	0.9	50.9	57.6	0.0
1	G	Jeff Hawkins	5-11/175	So.	1.2	0.6	0.4	20.5	68.8	25.9
5	G	Keith Langford*	6-4/205	Jr.	15.9	4.9	2.0	53.0	63.5	28.9
25	G	Michael Lee	6-3/215	Jr.	4.9	2.3	1.0	49.2	73.2	50.0
11	G	Aaron Miles*	6-1/175	Jr.	8.9	3.3	6.4	40.8	75.0	24.5
34	F	Christian Moody	6-7/205	So.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	—	—
33	F	Bryant Nash	6-6/205	Sr.	2.9	2.4	0.4	40.6	61.5	20.0
55	F	Moulaye Niang	6-10/215	So.	1.2	1.5	0.0	36.1	37.0	0.0
3	F	Brett Olson	6-7/213	Fr.	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	—
44	C	David Padgett	6-11/235	Fr.	Solid defender, consistent performer.					
23	F	Wayne Simien	6-9/225	Jr.	14.8	8.2	1.5	64.6	67.6	—
20	G	Stephen Vinson	6-2/185	So.	0.6	0.3	0.2	15.0	75.0	7.1
2	G	Omar Wilkes	6-4/183	Fr.	Smooth-shooting, complete player.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Nick Collison*	6-9/250	18.5	10.0	2.2	55.4	63.5	34.2
G	Kirk Hinrich*	6-3/185	17.3	3.8	3.5	47.5	70.4	40.6

3. Oklahoma

WHAT WE LIKE: This has become the poster program for working hard and getting the most out of its talent. Kelvin Sampson has constructed an elite program, one that has to be considered strong year in and year out until further notice. The Sooners will play tough defense, set screens and dive for loose balls. They never are an easy out. De'Angelo Alexander and Kevin Bookout are ready to break out after being spoon-fed as freshmen. Alexander is a strong wing who can slash or pull up for 3-pointers. Bookout is close to an Olympic-caliber shot-putter; that should give you an idea of his strength. He can bull his way through the lane and finish. But he mixes that power with the ability to spin along the baseline for reverse layups. Bookout has terrific hands and coordination for his size. Alexander and Bookout are the future of this program, one that looks pretty good. Jason Detrick returns after redshirting last season. He averaged 20.9 minutes on the Sooners' 2002 Final Four team and is a senior, so he's not your typical redshirt. Detrick isn't a great long-range shooter, but he has a nice midrange game, can work the baseline and can hold up inside. He should be a more consistent presence than departed Ebi Ere. Jabahri Brown runs the floor as well as any big man; he can fly for his size. He blocks shots well and explodes through the lane on breaks or on putbacks. Once crude offensively, he has added a little polish and needs to be watched when he steps away from the basket. Johnnie Gilbert and Larry Turner are athletic big men who will do the dirty work needed to keep this system humming.

WHAT SCARES US: The starting guards, Quannas White and Hollis Price, are gone. They clearly were the top perimeter 3-point threats, and their long-range shooting will be missed. The Sooners made 50.0 percent or better of their 3-point attempts in 10 of their final 17

games, but Alexander is the only returning player who made any of those shots. The offense as a whole had too many long droughts last season, and though this team's toughness figures to be there, the offense still has to piece together a lot of unknowns. Despite their talents, Bookout and Alexander were erratic as freshmen. They should blossom into consistent offensive threats, but that's not guaranteed. Bookout must be in better shape, and Alexander needs to hone his shot selection. The biggest question comes at the point. Freshmen Andrew Lavender and Lawrence McKenzie will get the bulk of the time there. Lavender figures to start and comes with big-time credentials; he was a McDonald's All-American. Lavender is quicker and more offensive-minded than White. But here's the rub: Lavender is 5-7. Can he hold up playing in a system that often beats up its own players because of the physical style? Sampson raves about Lavender's heart—and he knows something about that. But others are a little more skeptical about whether Lavender can flourish. Even though Blake Johnston was nothing more than a role player, the Sooners could have used his experience, at least early in the season, to help break in Lavender and McKenzie. But Johnston gave up basketball because of assorted injuries. The Sooners have gone from a veteran team to an inexperienced one in a hurry.

X-FACTOR: This will be a more athletic team, and probably a more versatile one, too. But will the leadership be there? It's the kind of intangible that can be overrated; not all seniors are great leaders, after all. But Price, in particular, and White showed the way. Their games weren't pretty, but they embodied Sooner basketball, and they knew exactly what needed to get done. Price was like a co-coach, someone who would stop practice and get on the guys if their effort level wasn't to his or Sampson's liking. Sampson is a demanding coach; his players have to work hard. From Ryan Minor to Nate Erdmann to Eduardo Najera to Price, Sampson has had players at Oklahoma who have bought into his program and sold it to the rest of the team. Who will do the selling this year?

Schedule

N21-22	Sooner Invitational
N25	Tulsa
D2	Ark.-Pine Bluff
D6	Michigan State*
D10	Purdue
D13	Prairie View A&M
D20	Jackson State
D29	Texas-Pan American
J3	Princeton**
J11	at Connecticut
J14	at Oklahoma State
J17	Missouri
J19	at Texas Tech
J24	Kansas State
J28	at Baylor
F1	at Nebraska
F4	Iowa State
F8	at Texas
F11	Texas Tech
F14	at Texas A&M
F16	Oklahoma State
F21	Texas
F25	at Colorado
F29	at Kansas
M3	Texas A&M
M6	Baylor

*at Auburn Hills, Mich.

**at Oklahoma City



Kevin Bookout

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

A Big 12 coach says: Hollis Price and Quannas White were so tough. Hollis willed them to win—how many times? I would say they'd take a step back, but Kelvin Sampson gets so much out of his guys. Andrew Lavender is a jet, but I don't see him as a Hollis. Losing Hollis is like getting a heart transplant. You just hope it works. Jason Detrick is a decent shooter; De'Angelo Alexander is a decent shooter. But shooting could be one of their weaknesses. The thing we know they'll do is defend. They have such great help and are so physical, and their wings are big. That'll help with a small point guard.

Sooners data

Coach: Kelvin Sampson (214-81, 9 years; 390-229 overall, 20 years; NCAA Tournament 10-10).

Assistant coaches: Bennie Seltzer (6 years), Jim Shaw (4), Jimmy Tubbs (1).

2002-03 record: 27-7. Big 12: 12-4/3rd. Lost to Syracuse in

NCAA East final.

Last regular-season title: 1989 (Big Eight).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.

Site: Norman, Okla.

Home court: Lloyd Noble Center (12,000).

Website: www.soonersports.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
15	G	De'Angelo Alexander*	6-4/215	So.	7.1	3.6	0.9	38.5	72.8	35.0
40	F	Kevin Bookout*	6-8/260	So.	9.4	5.9	0.5	58.7	54.8	0.0
21	C	Jabahri Brown	6-10/210	Sr.	6.3	5.5	1.5	43.7	60.4	0.0
5	F	Jason Detrick	6-5/215	Sr.	Redshirt averaged 9.2 points in 01-02					
2	F	Brandon Foust	6-6/210	Fr.	May redshirt to add strength.					
32	F	Johnnie Gilbert	6-8/230	Jr.	3.7	4.7	0.7	50.0	40.0	0.0
3	G	Andrew Lavender	5-7/155	Fr.	Has great quickness; size is a concern.					
55	F	Michael Liggett	6-6/190	Jr.	0.7	0.0	0.0	66.7	—	100.0
1	G	Lawrence McKenzie	6-1/170	Fr.	Will offer depth at point guard.					
11	G	Kellen Sampson	6-1/170	Fr.	Coach's son was captain of H.S. team.					
4	G	Jimmy Tobias	6-4/190	Fr.	Hopes to get minutes at the wing.					
44	C	Larry Turner	6-11/235	Fr.	1.3	1.5	0.3	80.0	0.0	0.0
12	G	Jaison Williams	6-3/185	Jr.	JC sharpshooter also played at Xavier.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Ebi Ere*	6-5/215	12.9	4.8	1.9	37.8	71.5	30.7
G	Blake Johnston	6-1/185	2.7	0.8	1.6	39.2	90.0	40.8
G	Hollis Price*	6-1/170	18.0	2.7	2.8	45.3	92.9	43.3
G	Quannas White*	6-1/190	8.6	3.6	4.1	44.5	64.5	45.5

4. Texas

WHAT WE LIKE: Four starters and three key reserves return from last year's Final Four team. If that's not enough experience for you, here's this: The Longhorns have four seniors (James Thomas, Brandon Mouton, Royal Ivey and Brian Boddicker) and a fourth-year junior (Jason Klotz) who have contributed heavily. This group, the recruiting class of 2000, is the foundation that Rick Barnes has built his program upon. They are interested in doing more than keeping the Erwin

Schedule

N24	Sam Houston State
N29	Centenary
D10	Arizona
D14	New Orleans
D20	Duke*
D23	Xavier
D29	George Washington
J10	Baylor
J13	Wake Forest
J17	Nebraska
J20	at Missouri
J24	Oklahoma State
J26	at Texas Tech
J31	at Texas A&M
F3	Colorado
F8	Oklahoma
F10	at Baylor
F14	at Iowa State
F18	Texas A&M
F21	at Oklahoma
F23	Kansas
F28	Texas Tech
M1	at Oklahoma State
M6	at Kansas State

*at New York

Center warm until Barnes' top recruiting haul for 2004 arrives. Those four seniors have specific roles on the team, and each performs his role very well. Thomas idolizes NBA rebounding king Ben Wallace. He goes after balls off the rim with zeal. It also helps that he's usually more athletic than the guy he's banging in the paint and that he's able to use his long arms to tip the ball to himself. He sets the tone for a team that averaged almost seven rebounds more than its opponents. Mouton is the scorer. Sometimes, he has to be nudged to take control offensively, but he didn't need reminders during the Final Four run, when he averaged 17.8 points. Mouton can convert from 3-point range, along the baseline or in transition. He has gotten better each season. Ivey is the defensive stopper. He relishes taking top perimeter scorers out of their games with his on-the-ball, in-your-face defense, which is aided by his long, lean physique. When he's defending, Ivey has a look that says, "You're not scoring on me." Boddicker is one of the nation's top sixth men. He, like Sydmill Harris and Baylor transfer Kenny Taylor, can ignite the team with his 3-point shooting; Boddicker made 52.4 percent of his tries beyond the

arc in the NCAA Tournament. Late in the season, he also showed a greater willingness to use his 6-9 frame to battle inside and help on the boards. That needs to continue.

WHAT SCARES US: Texas has a lot back, but what's missing is the difference between the Longhorns being the preseason No. 1 team and No. 14. Barnes says that in T.J. Ford's two years in Austin, he did more for Texas basketball than anyone before him. He's right. Ford was the consensus national player of the year last season when he led Texas to the Final Four. He was dazzling with his speed, ballhandling and passing, which probably was better than that of any collegian since Magic Johnson. The team has every other part in place, but is missing a point guard. Getting first crack at replacing Ford is sophomore Kenton Paulino, who played in barely half of the team's games last season while making five of his 29 shot attempts (17.2 percent). He also had twice as many turnovers (13) as assists (six). But it's tough to get a good read on someone who played almost all of his minutes in mop-up duty, and Barnes thinks Paulino can play. Despite his poor shooting last year, Paulino is billed as someone who can hurt defenses from the outside. That's one area where he could be an upgrade over Ford. Another option at the point could be junior college transfer Edgar Moreno, but he's not a pure point guard. He's better suited to being a combo guard with limited playmaking responsibilities. If Paulino can't cut it, the better bet is that Ivey will move to the point, where he played some as a freshman. Ivey would be more of a caretaker at the position, which would be a long fall from where Texas was last season. Moving Ivey to the point also would likely lead Harris to the starting lineup. That would take some of the sizzle from the bench.

X-FACTOR: Brad Buckman had his moments as a freshman, but he's capable of a bigger role. Texas has plenty—plenty!—of big bodies, but none has the desire or ability to finish while pinballing around the lane like Buckman. Without the luxury of Ford, the Longhorns need to be more efficient with their opportunities, and Buckman is best equipped to be the team's go-to guy for those low-post baskets that ward off sustained scoring droughts. This team is built around seniors, but this sophomore might be its top player.

James Thomas



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

A Big 12 coach says: They return everybody but one guy, but he was player of the year. I don't know if they're a Final Four team, but they're going to be difficult to beat. Point guard is going to be a concern. They added the junior college kid (Edgar Moreno); he's not bad. I'm not sure what they're going to do. I love James Thomas. He's a warrior. Brad Buckman is a matchup problem because he's so strong but shoots the ball to 15 feet. Brandon Mouton can light you up. If T.J. Ford never went there and they returned these guys, people wouldn't question this team.

Longhorns data

Coach: Rick Barnes (116-50, 5 years; 318-184 overall, 16 years; NCAA Tournament 9-11).

Assistant coaches: Frank Haith (2 years), Russell Springmann (2), Rodney Terry (1).

2002-03 record: 26-7. Big 12: 13-3/2nd. Lost to Syracuse in

NCAA semifinal.

Last regular-season title: 1999. **Last time didn't make NCAA field:** 1998.

Site: Austin, Texas.

Home court: Frank Erwin Center (16,496).

Website: www.texassports.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
33	F	Brian Boddicker	6-8/228	Sr.	8.3	4.3	0.4	45.2	67.3	43.9
22	F/C	Brad Buckman*	6-8/235	So.	6.7	5.3	0.1	51.7	75.6	0.0
32	G	Drew Gressett	6-0/180	Sr.	0.5	0.1	0.0	28.6	—	0.0
13	G	Sydmill Harris	6-5/200	Jr.	6.2	0.9	0.5	39.9	76.9	36.8
24	G	Royal Ivey*	6-3/200	Sr.	7.9	3.0	1.6	47.4	77.4	26.7
21	C	Jason Klotz	6-9/240	Jr.	4.2	3.0	0.2	50.0	60.6	—
3	F	Brandon Mouton*	6-4/205	Sr.	14.8	4.2	1.7	43.9	66.7	41.3
4	G	Edgar Moreno	6-2/195	Jr.	Not as quick as Ford but a better shot.					
12	G	Kenton Paulino	6-1/170	So.	1.0	0.8	0.4	17.2	66.7	15.8
	G	Kenny Taylor	6-3/185	Jr.	Baylor transfer had 11.8 ppg last year.					
0	F/C	James Thomas*	6-8/235	Sr.	11.1	11.0	0.5	51.4	65.7	—
2	F	P.J. Tucker	6-5/220	Fr.	MVP of N.C. prep all-star game.					
44	F	Chris Wright	6-9/230	So.	Had knee injuries the past two seasons.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Deignald Erskin	6-6/218	3.8	1.8	0.4	45.9	65.0	0.0
G	T.J. Ford*	5-10/165	15.0	3.9	7.7	40.1	82.0	26.5
G	Terrell Ross	6-3/190	1.5	1.4	1.2	42.2	63.6	22.2

5. Colorado

WHAT WE LIKE: Center David Harrison is a future NBA player who can dominate as a scorer, rebounder or shot blocker. Small forward Michel Morandais is a productive player who excels at taking smaller wing players inside and posting them up—and at finishing with an assortment of leaners, runners and turnarounds. Blair Wilson can almost singlehandedly shoot Colorado to a win. The Buffaloes have a great deal of momentum after making a run to the NCAA Tournament last year. Their stay in the field was short, but they are hungry to get back—and stick around longer.

WHAT SCARES US: Back-to-back games in January summed up the 2002-03 Buffs: They lost on the road to woeful Nebraska, then beat national runner-up Kansas four days later. This is an incomplete team, one that can dominate at home but often looks hapless on the road. Part of the problem is the absence of a dynamic point guard. The incumbent, Antoine McGee, had a 2.2-to-1 assist-to-turnover ratio, but he's an absolute nothing as a scorer. Defenders can sag off him. He'll be pushed by Marcus Hall, but Hall is an unknown. As good as Harrison is, he must start giving maximum effort every trip down the floor.

X-FACTOR: This is the year for Colorado to prove it can handle expectations. Morandais and Wilson are seniors, and this could be Harrison's final college season. Ricardo Patton is feeling heat for failing to maintain the recruiting momentum he started by landing Harrison. If this season doesn't bring big things, what's next for Patton? He took a shorter contract extension than one that was offered because of a clause that would have required the Buffaloes to make the NCAAs twice in the first three years of the longer contract. Despite last year's success, there is some uneasiness here.

Buffaloes data

Coach: Ricardo Patton (125-103, 8 years; NCAA Tournament 1-2).
Assistant coaches: Terry Dunn (8 years), Jason Shelton (3), Paul Graham (1).
2002-03 record: 20-12. Big 12: 9-7/75th. Lost to Michigan State in

NCAA South first round.

Last regular-season title: 1969 (Big Eight).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002. Site: Boulder, Colo.

Home court: Coors Events Center (11,064).

Website: www.cubuffs.com

Roster

Roster		*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter									
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%	
2	G	Billy Boidock	6-0/150	So.	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	
15	F	Chris Copeland	6-8/225	So.	2.5	1.6	0.3	37.7	57.7	25.0	
3	F	A. Doumbouya	6-7/240	Sr.	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	
1	F	Glean Eddy	6-5/200	So.	3.5	3.0	0.4	35.9	74.0	22.7	
21	G	Marcus Hall	6-1/175	Fr.	Quick and a solid passer at the point.						
44	F	Lamar Harris	6-7/205	Sr.	4.7	5.4	0.4	48.8	49.2	0.0	
13	C	David Harrison*	7-0/250	Jr.	13.9	8.3	0.5	54.7	56.3	—	
24	G	Trennis Jones	6-0/170	Sr.	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0	100.0	—	
12	G	Brien Mattingly	6-1/190	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—	
42	G	Antoine McGee*	5-10/180	So.	2.6	1.4	3.0	29.7	64.9	25.0	
30	G/F	Michel Morandais*	6-5/200	Sr.	16.9	5.4	3.4	45.4	77.7	36.3	
5	G	Jayson Obazuaye	6-2/190	So.	2.9	1.0	0.5	41.6	43.8	8.3	
10	F	Scott Senger	6-7/205	So.	1.0	0.3	0.0	50.0	—	0.0	
34	G/F	Keith Smith	6-6/220	Fr.	Sat out senior year to have foot surgery.						
31	G	John Tynan	6-4/180	Jr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	
43	G/F	Blair Wilson*	6-6/220	Sr.	12.9	3.4	1.8	39.8	80.0	35.0	

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Stephane Pelle*	6-9/240	12.0	9.3	0.8	46.6	79.8	0.0
G	James Wright	6-0/165	6.5	1.0	3.7	42.7	69.2	41.5

Schedule

N21	Fresno State	D27	Prairie View A&M	J25	at Kansas	F21	at Kansas State
N24	at Pepperdine	J5	Kansas	J28	Missouri	F25	Oklahoma
D1	Oregon State	J8	Savannah State	J31	Baylor	F28	at Texas A&M
D6	California	J14	at Nebraska	F3	at Texas	M3	at Iowa State
D10	at Colorado State	J17	Iowa State	F7	Kansas State	M6	Nebraska
D19	Tennessee State	J21	at Oklahoma St.	F10	at Missouri		
				F18	Texas Tech		

6. Oklahoma State

WHAT WE LIKE: Eddie Sutton expects his guards to do a little of everything—score, defend, create, rebound. So Tony Allen is his kind of player. Look for Allen to become more aggressive on offense and extend his range in his second year in the program. Anchoring the inside is Ivan McFarlin. There's not much fancy about him, but he's ferocious. Supplying the buzz to the season are Stevie and Joey Graham, who transferred from Central Florida. They are multiskilled and provide great size in the backcourt. According to Stillwater legend, they often overwhelmed last season's Cowboys in practice and pickup games. The Grahams should be able to create mismatches on offense, and if they are willing to work on defense, they could have a huge impact.

WHAT SCARES US: In Victor Williams, the team lost its leading scorer and distributor. In Andre Williams, it lost an elite shot blocker and interior defender. In Melvin Sanders, it lost its shutdown perimeter defender. Stevie Graham hasn't played point guard since high school, so he'll need an adjustment period, though he'll be helped by the late addition of Baylor transfer John Lucas III. There are a lot of new parts, which could make it difficult for another trademark fast start by the Cowboys.

X-FACTOR: Who, other than McFarlin, will be a factor and a steady contributor inside? The team is penciling in Jason Miller as a starter inside along with McFarlin, but Miller is best used as a role player. Frans Steyn is said to be improved, but he and his 7-2 frame have been a non-factor to date. The team got a late recruit in David Monds, who spent last year improving his game at a prep school. Junior college recruit Tremaine Fuqua is also in the mix. OSU has options. What it doesn't have is a sure thing.

Cowboys data

Coach: Eddie Sutton (294-124, 13 years; 724-288 overall, 33 years; NCAA Tournament 33-24).
Assistant coaches: Sean Sutton (10 years), Glynn Cyprien (3), James Dickey (1st).
2002-03 record: 22-10. Big 12:

10-6/4th. Lost to Syracuse in NCAA East second round.

Last regular-season title: 1991 (tie, Big Eight).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.

Site: Stillwater, Okla.

Home court: Gallagher-Iba Arena (13,611).

Website: www.okstate.com

Roster

Roster		*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter								
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
24	G	Tony Allen*	6-4/205	Sr.	14.4	5.4	2.7	44.7	69.1	39.5
14	G	Daniel Bobik	6-6/205	Jr.	Transfer from BYU has great ballhandling skills.					
42	F	Terrence Crawford	6-6/230	Jr.	Redshirted recovering from injury.					
12	G	Ross DeRogatis	6-1/180	Fr.	Redshirted to mature.					
5	G	Marcus Dove	6-7/210	Fr.	Long and lightning quick on drives.					
0	F/C	Tremaine Fuqua	6-9/240	Fr.	JC transfer adds beef to the frontcourt.					
32	G/F	Joey Graham	6-7/220	Jr.	JC transfer should help inside game.					
21	G	Stevie Graham	6-6/212	Jr.	JC transfer is a long-range shooter.					
2	F	Onye Ibekwe	6-7/225	So.	0.8	1.2	0.1	44.4	25.0	—
15	G	John Lucas III	5-11/155	Jr.	13.3	2.4	4.4	43.5	87.1	31.1
44	G	Jeff Johnson	6-1/170	Jr.	0.7	0.0	0.0	40.0	—	50.0
23	F	Ivan McFarlin*	6-8/237	Sr.	10.7	7.8	1.0	54.5	62.1	0.0
33	F	Jason Miller	6-9/245	Sr.	2.9	3.0	0.2	44.2	64.0	—
32	F	David Monds	6-9/225	Fr.	Had 18.0 ppg before attending prep school.					
1	G	Julian Richardson	6-1/165	Fr.	Redshirted last season.					
4	C	Frans Steyn	7-2/306	Jr.	0.5	1.2	0.1	66.7	11.1	—
25	G	J. Weatherspoon	6-1/165	Sr.	2.5	1.0	0.4	37.7	68.6	27.3

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Cheyne Gibson	6-3/207	5.6	2.2	3.1	38.0	77.2	40.7
G	Melvin Sanders*	6-5/198	12.9	4.8	1.6	44.2	67.6	34.2
F	Andre Williams*	6-8/216	4.4	5.6	0.6	48.7	33.3	—
G	Victor Williams*	5-10/192	15.5	2.3	3.2	42.3	75.4	38.3

Schedule

N21	Northwestern St.	J6	Texas A&M-CC	J24	at Texas	F16	at Oklahoma
N29	Pepperdine	J10	at Texas Tech	J31	Texas Tech	F21	Nebraska
D2	UT-San Antonio	J14	Oklahoma	F3	at Texas A&M	F24	at Missouri
D20	at Arkansas	J17	at Kansas State	F7	at Iowa State	F28	at Baylor
D22	Texas-Pan Am.	J21	Colorado	F9	Kansas	M1	Texas
				F14	Baylor	M6	Texas A&M

7. Texas Tech

WHAT WE LIKE: When Andre Emmett withdrew from the NBA draft, optimism about this season grew tenfold. He doesn't have a reliable 3-point jumper, but he doesn't pretend that he does. Instead, he focuses on being one of the nation's most creative scorers. Emmett can be unstoppable on drives. He gets his defender backpedaling, then he stops and lofts short jumpers, fadeaways and bank shots. Or he penetrates all the way to the basket and uses his strength—uncommon strength for a guard—to score on leaners and layups in traffic. Robert Tomaszek is a big presence with a soft touch who scored in double figures in five of six games during the team's third-place run in the NIT. Under Bob Knight, the Red Raiders have been an unselfish, good-passing team—even without a solid point guard—that takes good shots.

WHAT SCARES US: Other than Emmett, where will the points come from? It's hard to say even who will start after Emmett and Tomaszek. Kasib Powell, who thrived as an overlooked scoring complement to Emmett, will be missed. For an offense built on screens and motion, the lack of quality perimeter shooters has been problematic. The theory was that top prospects would line up to play for Knight. That hasn't happened.

X-FACTOR: No Big 12 team will rely more on one player than Tech will with Emmett. So his relationship with Knight bears watching. Knight has alternately heaped praise (for his scoring ability) and criticism (for his defense and effort) on Emmett. Emmett was suspended for a game last season for violating team rules. Tech needs him to be a leader this year, because so much else is unknown. If Emmett and Knight, the two faces for this year's program, aren't in accord, forget about the NCAAAs.

Red Raiders data

Coach: Bob Knight (45-22, 2 years; 809-311 overall, 37 years; NCAA Tournament 42-22; won NCAA titles in 1976, 1981 and 1987).
Assistant coaches: Chris Beard (2 years), Bob Beyer (2), Pat Knight (2).
2002-03 record: 22-13. Big 12:

6-10/17th. Lost to St. John's in NIT semifinal.
Last regular-season title: 1986 (tie, SWC).
Last NCAA appearance: 2002.
Site: Lubbock, Texas.
Home court: United Spirit Arena (15,098).
Website: www.texastech.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
5	G	Drew Coffman	6-1/175	Fr.	Had a career H.S. high of 42 points.					
14	G/F	Andre Emmett*	6-5/225	Sr.	21.8	6.4	1.9	49.7	70.7	28.9
21	F	Devonne Giles	6-8/225	Jr.	JC transfer shot 53.0 percent last season.					
22	G	Jarrius Jackson	6-1/185	Fr.	Louisiana Class 5A All-State first-teamer.					
32	G	Curtis Marshall	6-5/190	Jr.	JC transfer full of athletic ability.					
23	G/F	Michael Marshall	6-4/225	Sr.	2.2	1.7	1.3	50.0	61.5	25.0
41	G/F	Michael Milton	6-6/200	Fr.	Scored 41 points in a high school game.					
35	F	John Ofoegbu	6-8/231	So.	1.7	1.3	0.1	44.8	38.1	—
31	F	Tanner Ogden	6-7/220	Fr.	Redshirt is a walk-on this season.					
24	G	Ronald Ross*	6-2/185	Jr.	4.6	2.1	2.4	44.6	58.3	24.1
55	F/C	Robert Tomaszek*	6-9/250	Sr.	8.3	5.0	1.2	48.4	60.3	33.3
40	G	Josh Washington	6-2/200	So.	2.3	1.0	0.3	24.0	69.0	10.5
33	G	LucQuente White	6-0/176	Fr.	Redshirt averaged 19.7 ppg in high school.					
53	F	Joseph Works	6-6/220	Jr.	JC transfer was highly coveted as a prep.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Will Chavis*	5-10/190	7.9	2.7	2.2	45.5	75.5	38.2
G	Nathan Doudney	6-4/204	4.4	1.4	0.9	40.5	75.0	39.1
F	Kasib Powell*	6-7/218	14.8	6.1	4.3	48.4	60.8	14.3
F	Pawel Storzowski	6-8/249	5.0	3.1	1.0	41.2	61.9	0.0

Schedule

N18-28 Preseason NIT	D17 Sam Houston St.	J24 at Texas A&M	F18 at Colorado
N23 E. Tennessee St.	D22 Iowa*	J26 Texas	F21 Texas A&M
D1 at SMU	J1 Minnesota	J31 at Oklahoma St.	F24 at Nebraska
D3 UTEP	J4 at Ohio State	F3 Baylor	F28 at Texas
D6 at New Mexico	J10 Oklahoma State	F7 at Kansas	M2 Missouri
D10 TCU	J17 at Baylor	F11 at Oklahoma	M6 Iowa State
D13 San Diego State	J19 Oklahoma	F14 Kansas State	*at Dallas

8. Texas A&M

WHAT WE LIKE: The Aggies have someone being mentioned as an All-American candidate—and he doesn't play at Kyle Field. Antoine Wright was hailed as the biggest recruit in A&M history, and as a freshman he started delivering. Wright is a tremendous athlete who explodes to the hoop and finishes electrically; he even names his dunks. By himself, Wright has raised the excitement level of a sleepy program. He also is a good team guy, which wasn't always said about Bernard King, who won't be missed too much despite departing College Station as the Big 12 career scoring leader. Overall, this should be a more cohesive unit that has more scoring options, including freshman LaKeith Blanks. Kevin Turner is capable of providing a spark with his shooting off the bench.

WHAT SCARES US: This team didn't show up at times last year, losing by 15 or more points in six games—including a 40-point wipeout to Kansas. Where's the fight? Also, the Aggies were the worst team in the Big 12 in rebounding and defense—usually good barometers of how hard a team works. Rebounding figures to be problematic again. The Aggies have been plagued by poor point guard play under coach Melvin Watkins. The hope is that newcomers Bobby Leach and Acie Law will be better, but they're unproven. Watkins hasn't ruled out playing Wright, last season's leading rebounder and top returning scorer, at the point some.

X-FACTOR: Nick Anderson, who averaged in double figures his first two seasons in College Station, slipped to 4.9 last season before having his campaign end because of academic suspension. Anderson doesn't need to be a star, but he needs to be a complementary scorer who can hit some jumpers and cause defenders to worry about his presence. He needs to be what a senior should be.

Aggies data

Coach: Melvin Watkins (53-91, 5 years; 95-111 overall, 7 years; NCAA Tournament 2-2).
Assistant coaches: Lew Hill (5 years), Bobby Kummer (5).
2002-2003 record: 14-14.

Big 12: 6-10/17th.
Last regular-season title: 1986 (tie, SWC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: College Station, Texas.
Home court: Reed Arena (12,500).
Website: www.aggieathletics.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
5	F	Nick Anderson	6-6/225	Sr.	4.9	3.4	0.8	46.3	33.3	30.8
23	F	LaKeith Blanks	6-6/195	Fr.	A lot of big-time schools wanted him.					
11	F	Luis Clemente	6-8/225	So.	Sat out last year as a partial qualifier.					
10	G	L. Garcia-Morales	6-1/180	Sr.	5.2	1.9	2.7	36.4	79.1	33.3
3	F	Jesse King	6-7/225	Sr.	4.7	2.7	0.4	47.9	26.7	37.0
1	G	Acie Law IV	6-3/180	Fr.	Starred in Texas' Class 5A H.S. ranks.					
30	G	Bobby Leach	6-0/180	Jr.	JC transfer was a Philly prep star.					
12	G	Dylan Leal	6-4/195	Sr.	1.3	0.5	2.9	30.0	—	30.0
33	G	Justin Loewe	6-4/200	Fr.	Local product is excellent shooter.					
	G/F	Tyrone Nelson	6-9/200	Fr.	Initially was to attend Baylor.					
42	F	Marlon Pompey	6-8/225	Fr.	Very athletic; could help right away.					
50	C	Andy Slocum	7-0/275	Sr.	5.6	5.6	0.2	50.0	54.2	0.0
22	G	Kevin Turner	6-2/175	Sr.	7.9	1.7	0.7	36.4	88.9	40.4
23	G	Marcus Watkins	6-4/190	So.	2.6	1.0	0.4	43.9	72.0	20.0
21	G/F	Antoine Wright*	6-7/195	So.	14.5	6.6	1.8	36.4	61.1	38.2

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F/C	Keith Bean*	6-8/255	5.9	4.9	0.8	64.6	53.6	—
G	Bradley Jackson*	5-11/185	4.4	1.6	3.1	41.9	80.3	26.3
G	Bernard King*	6-5/195	17.0	4.0	5.6	44.2	76.4	34.9
F	Tomas Ress*	7-0/230	5.8	3.9	0.6	47.8	77.8	38.1

Schedule

N24 Ark.-Pine Bluff	D18 at UT-San Antonio	J28 at Iowa State	F21 at Texas Tech
N26 Alabama A&M	J3 at La.-Monroe	J31 Texas	F25 Baylor
D1 Prairie View A&M	J6 Long Island	F3 Oklahoma St.	F28 Colorado
D3 at Tennessee	J10 at Missouri	F7 at Baylor	M3 at Oklahoma
D6 at Oakland	J17 Kansas	F11 Nebraska	M6 at Oklahoma St.
D13 Texas A&M-CC	J21 at Kansas State	F14 Oklahoma	
	J24 Texas Tech	F18 at Texas	

9. Kansas State

WHAT WE LIKE: The Wildcats—yes, the *Kansas State* Wildcats—hailed in a gold-star class of newcomers, a class that even earned mention as the nation's best by one recruiting service. It's probably not *that* good, but it is the best crop of talent Jim Wooldridge has brought in. The stars are Cartier Martin and Dez Willingham, who were mined from Texas. Willingham will be brought along slowly because the starting backcourt returns, including serviceable point guard Frank Richards. The Wildcats are buying Wooldridge's sales job that they have to defend to be competitive. They ranked second in the conference last season in field-goal defense. Wooldridge has the momentum meter pointing up.

WHAT SCARES US: The starting frontcourt of Pervis Pasco, Gilson DeJesus and Matt Siebrandt is gone. None was a star, but all were double-figure scorers who scrapped hard inside. DeJesus was the only reliable 3-point shooter a year ago. The freshmen and junior college players will be expected to contribute heavily. Will Wooldridge be able to keep their confidence high if they struggle? Any team relying on a wealth of newcomers needs time to jell. Complicating that is Wooldridge's devotion to the triangle offense, which often takes time to learn. Losing has become accepted and expected by many surrounding the program. That has to change for K-State, which lost 13 of its final 17 games last season.

X-FACTOR: Can Martin become the star to lead this program's turnaround? He has the body and potential to be a future NBA player, and those types haven't been found on K-State's campus of late. Martin likes to drive, and he has an improving jumper. He should develop into a major impact player. How quickly he gets there, and how far he can take the Wildcats, remains to be seen.

Wildcats data

Coach: Jim Wooldridge (37-51, 3 years; 266-198 overall, 16 years; NCAA Tournament 0-1).

Assistant coaches: Mike Miller (3 years), Charles Baker (3), Jimmy Elgas (1st).

2002-03 record: 13-17, Big 12:

4-12/11th.

Last regular-season title: 1977 (Big Eight).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Manhattan, Kan.

Home court: Bramlage Coliseum (13,500).

Website: www.k-statesports.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G		Blake Bauer	6-2/180	Jr.	Added to the team as a walk-on in February.					
40	F	Travis Canby	6-9/240	Jr.	0.3	0.6	0.2	37.5	42.9	—
21	F	Dramane Diarra	6-8/225	Jr.	Paris native fills frontcourt need.					
11	G	Tim Ellis*	6-3/180	Sr.	9.4	2.8	1.4	43.7	78.6	38.2
3	G	Lance Harris	6-4/195	Fr.	Averaged 18.0 ppg, 5.0 rpg in high school.					
30	G	Jarrett Hart	6-4/205	Sr.	7.5	3.4	3.0	40.9	59.6	33.3
23	F	Marques Hayden	6-7/240	So.	7.0	4.5	0.9	50.0	67.6	0.0
55	F	Tyler Hughes	6-11/220	Fr.	Averaged a double-double as a H.S. senior.					
20	F	Cartier Martin	6-8/215	Fr.	Parade fourth-team All-American.					
15	F	Jeremiah Massey	6-8/230	Jr.	One of the top 70 JC players last season.					
22	G	Frank Richards*	6-2/180	Sr.	9.9	2.6	4.9	41.7	65.6	20.3
1	G	Schylar Thomas	6-0/175	So.	1.4	0.7	0.6	31.1	40.0	25.9
54	F	Justin Williams	6-10/250	Jr.	JC transfer had a broken kneecap last year.					
10	G	Dez Willingham	6-0/180	Fr.	Named MVP of Texas 5A state title game.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Quentin Buchanan	6-7/200	2.0	1.3	0.3	42.2	64.0	0.0
G	Gilson DeJesus*	6-5/215	11.2	5.7	1.0	44.7	67.5	43.7
F	Pervis Pasco*	6-9/218	10.4	7.5	1.8	50.9	51.6	—
F	Matt Siebrandt*	6-8/240	11.0	4.8	1.7	55.2	69.6	—
F	Janerio Spurlock	6-6/215	3.0	0.7	0.3	36.0	75.0	33.3

Schedule

N21	Birmingham So.	D22	Bethune-Cookman	J24	at Oklahoma	F18	at Nebraska
N25	Lipscomb	D30	at UMKC	J28	Kansas	F21	Colorado
N29	Gardner-Webb	J3	at Saint Louis	J31	at Missouri	F25	at Iowa State
D3	Wyoming	J10	Savannah State	F4	Nebraska	F28	Missouri
D6	at Oregon State	J14	at Kansas	F7	at Colorado	M3	at Baylor
D10	Wichita State	J17	Oklahoma State	F11	Iowa State	M6	Texas

10. Iowa State

WHAT WE LIKE: For a new regime, there is stability. Coach Wayne Morgan, promoted from assistant after Larry Eustachy's infamous dismissal, should have a productive nucleus returning—eventually. Jake Sullivan is among the league's top scorers. He is a sharpshooter but has added breadth to his game beyond the 3-pointer. He's fearless and kept the Cyclones in many games last year. He constantly works at getting better. JC transfer Tim Barnes ranked among the Big 12 leaders in assists and 3-point shooting in his first year at the point. Jackson Vroman brings a workmanlike attitude inside; he's one of the league's best rebounders.

WHAT SCARES US: Of the team's expected big three, it's likely that only Sullivan will start the season on the floor. Barnes and Vroman both were arrested over the summer and were suspended indefinitely. They likely will be back, but it may not be until the second semester because they also are dealing with academic issues. The team also won't have Adam Haluska; he transferred to Iowa. Haluska, despite a late fade in his freshman season, offered promise. Still, even when Iowa State had these players together last season, it wasn't a good team. It was plagued by poor ball movement, and it lacked players who could attack from the wing. The Cyclones also have been pushovers on the road.

X-FACTOR: Can Morgan, who had only moderate success at his previous head coaching job (Long Beach State), bring good feelings to this program? Right now, Cyclones fans aren't even screaming for wins; they just want the embarrassment to end. From Eustachy to the arrests to losing a transfer to—gasp!—Iowa, enough is enough. Before ISU gets its house in order, it's no use judging the program by victories on the court.

Cyclones data

Coach: Wayne Morgan (1st year; 91-84 overall, 6 years).

Assistant coaches: Damon Archibald (1st year); Fred Quartlebaum (1st).

2002-03 record: 17-14, Big 12:

5-11/T9th. Lost to Iowa in NIT first round.

Last regular-season title: 2001.

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Ames, Iowa.

Home court: Hilton Coliseum (14,092).

Website: www.cyclones.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
12	G	Tim Barnes*	6-1/170	Sr.	11.3	3.6	5.0	42.2	55.0	38.3
11	G	Will Blalock	5-11/165	Fr.	Explosive, takes the ball to the basket.					
40	G	Dave Braet	6-3/185	Sr.	Track and field athlete walked on last year.					
41	C	Reggie George	6-9/230	Fr.	Blalock's H.S. teammate; has potential.					
51	C	Jared Homan*	6-9/245	Jr.	7.5	6.4	0.5	44.4	71.4	0.0
50	G/F	Marcus Jefferson	6-5/200	Sr.	8.4	3.5	0.8	47.0	76.3	36.4
33	G	John Neal	6-3/180	So.	0.2	0.5	0.1	14.3	—	20.0
15	F	Adam Schaper	6-9/215	So.	0.7	1.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
54	C	Andrew Skoglund	7-1/260	Sr.	0.9	0.7	0.1	31.3	66.7	—
		Damion Staple	6-8/230	Jr.	JC transfer was second-team All-American.					
		G Curtis Stinson	6-2/205	Fr.	Physically strong and mentally tough.					
0	G	Jake Sullivan*	6-1/190	Sr.	17.0	3.0	2.4	45.3	87.3	41.9
4	C/F	Jackson Vroman*	6-10/230	Sr.	12.5	9.4	1.8	55.2	51.6	0.0

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
C	Chris Alexander	7-1/235	7.7	5.2	0.4	51.8	57.9	—
F	Omar Bynum	6-7/210	2.9	1.7	0.2	42.9	73.9	44.4
G	Adam Haluska*	6-5/205	9.2	3.6	1.0	39.8	76.0	33.6

Schedule

N28	Mercer	J3	at San Diego State	J28	Texas A&M	F21	at Kansas
N30	Northern Iowa	J7	Missouri	J31	Kansas	F25	Kansas State
D5-6	Cyclone Challenge	J10	Nebraska	F4	at Oklahoma	F28	at Nebraska
D13	Liberty	J12	N. Colorado	F7	Oklahoma State	M3	Colorado
D20	at Drake	J17	at Colorado	F11	at Kansas State	M6	at Texas Tech
D23	Xavier	J21	Iowa	F14	Texas		

11. Nebraska

WHAT WE LIKE: Andrew Drevo and Nate Johnson, the team's top two scorers from a year ago, should be more comfortable and consistent in their second seasons in the program. Drevo, a former junior college transfer who walked on at Nebraska, is an inside-outside threat, though he needs to display better consistency from 3-point range. Johnson moves to shooting guard, which best suits his slashing style, after having to run the point for much of last year. He's capable of scoring in the upper teens. Johnson also is a top defender. Nebraska, in fact, is a solid defensive team, particularly along the perimeter. Defense is Barry Collier's trademark as a coach. Junior college transfer Marcus Neal is a scoring point guard who should make the backcourt more dynamic.

WHAT SCARES US: This team lost 14 of its last 17 games last season and dropped one to Alaska-Fairbanks. So it has issues. Collier is a respected coach, but the Huskers have gone from 14 to 13 to 11 wins in his three years. This was a dreadful offensive team last season, the worst in the Big 12 in scoring, field-goal percentage, 3-point percentage and assists. Unless Neal or one of the freshmen contribute right away, Johnson appears to be the only player capable of creating for himself. The Huskers can't shoot straight. In 16 Big 12 games last year, they shot better than 40 percent four times. That's horrible. The Huskers can get overpowered inside, particularly by athletic, aggressive big men.

X-FACTOR: Jake Muhleisen was limited last year after fracturing his hip socket. That left him on crutches for two months. The team needs Muhleisen, its best shooter and a sound passer. If he's healthy and able to handle the point, that will allow Johnson and Neal to focus more on scoring and less on playmaking.

Cornhuskers data

Coach: Barry Collier (38-50, 3 years; 234-182 overall, 14 years; NCAA Tournament 0-3).

Assistant coaches: Reggie Rankin (3 years), Doug Novsek (1), Scott Spinelli (1st).

2002-03 record: 11-19. Big 12:

3-13/12th.

Last regular-season title: 1950 (Big Eight).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Lincoln, Neb.

Home court: Bob Devaney Sports Center (13,500).

Website: www.huskers.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
25	G	Adam Bohac	6-1/180	Sr.	0.2	0.5	0.2	25.0	50.0	0.0
20	F	Brian Conklin	6-11/230	Sr.	3.5	2.2	0.6	30.7	93.3	25.9
1	G	Jason Dourisseau	6-5/185	So.	4.9	1.6	0.8	35.0	55.3	23.9
50	F	Andrew Drevo*	6-8/260	Sr.	13.9	7.3	1.3	41.1	67.3	32.2
4	G	Nate Johnson*	6-1/180	Sr.	13.3	3.8	2.6	40.6	72.8	23.7
33	F	Marques McCarty	6-5/195	Jr.	0.8	0.2	0.1	44.4	50.0	—
12	G	Jake Muhleisen	6-4/190	Jr.	11.7	3.8	3.4	46.9	67.5	30.0
10	G	Marcus Neal	6-0/175	Jr.	2003 Suncoast Conf. Player of the Year.					
3	G	Charles Richardson	5-8/155	Fr.	Top-ranked high school PG in Illinois.					
15	F	Bronson Schliep	6-7/210	So.	0.2	0.3	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0
21	G	Corey Simms*	6-5/205	Jr.	7.4	4.9	1.3	46.1	66.7	50.0
05	G/F	Shuan Stegall	6-6/205	Fr.	2003 H.S. honorable mention All-American.					
44	F/C	John Turek*	6-9/230	Jr.	7.8	43.4	0.9	43.4	43.9	0.0
45	C	Tony Wilbrand	6-10/250	So.	0.5	0.6	0.1	40.0	33.3	—
11	F	Wesley Wilkinson	6-9/210	So.	1.8	1.8	0.3	27.7	77.8	15.0

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Brennon Clemmons*	6-2/185	6.8	4.8	2.6	36.3	74.6	28.3
C	Roy Enright	6-9/255	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	83.3	0.0
C	Dan Heimos	6-11/230	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Schedule

N22	Fairleigh Dickinson	D13	Tennessee	J17	at Texas	F15	Kansas
N29	Eastern Michigan	D20	Bethune-Cookman	J21	Baylor	F18	Kansas State
D3	Arizona State	D22	Lipscomb	J24	at Missouri	F21	at Oklahoma State
D6	South Florida	D29	at Minnesota	F1	Oklahoma	F24	Texas Tech
D8	Delaware State	J6	St. Francis (Pa.)	F4	at Kansas State	F28	Iowa State
D10	at Creighton	J10	at Iowa State	F7	Missouri	M3	at Kansas
		J14	Colorado	F11	at Texas A&M	M6	at Colorado

12. Baylor

WHAT WE LIKE: Faced with what appeared to be an impossible task—hiring a respected coach to take over a seemingly hopeless situation—the Bears did quite well by landing Scott Drew, a rising name in the profession. Drew has been a big part of the success at Valparaiso, first as an assistant to his dad, Homer Drew, then as the head coach last season, when he led the Crusaders to a 20-win season. Drew has a solid reputation, and he has a history of being a good recruiter, especially when it comes to unearthing promising international talent. That may be his best bet: Finding players who are unaware of the soiled reputation of this program.

WHAT SCARES US: The scandals that rocked Baylor in the summer were so severe that there were questions whether it would be able to field a team after several players requested their release from the program. The biggest loss was star forward Lawrence Roberts, who transferred to Mississippi State and largely was responsible for the hope that was attached to this program before June. Even though it appears the Bears will have enough players for a team, that doesn't mean they are capable players. Drew said he even would explore poaching athletes from Baylor's other sports programs in order to get enough players.

X-FACTOR: No program in college basketball history has ever endured a worse offseason. Patrick Dennehy, who sat out last season as a transfer, was murdered, allegedly by former Bear Carlton Dotson. Disgraced former coach Dave Bliss tried to lure players and assistants into a cover-up of program infractions by slandering the late Dennehy. Seedy stuff, indeed. It could be a decade before people don't immediately associate Baylor basketball with scandal. That's the chore Drew has agreed to take on.

Bears data

Coach: Scott Drew (1st year; 20-11 overall, 1 season).

Assistant coaches: Matthew Driscoll (1st year).

2002-03 record: 14-14. Big 12:

5-11/10th.

Last regular-season title: 1950 (tie,

SWC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Waco, Texas.

Home court: Ferrell Center (10,284).

Website: www.gobaylorbears.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
34	C	R.T. Guinn*	6-10/240	Sr.	10.6	5.6	0.8	46.2	69.5	40.5
11	F	Corey Herring	6-4/190	So.	0.2	0.9	0.3	0.0	50.0	—
4	G	Ellis Kidd Jr.	6-4/185	Jr.	4.3	1.2	1.0	32.8	57.7	30.0
		G Carl Marshall	5-10/160	Fr.	Shot 48.9% on 3-pointers in high school.					
13	G	Matt Sayman	6-4/195	Sr.	4.5	2.8	2.3	31.3	77.6	21.6
32	F	Tommy Swanson	6-9/215	So.	0.9	0.8	0.1	38.5	60.0	—
		F Harvey Thomas	6-8/210	Jr.	Has a forward's power and guard's touch.					
24	F	Terrance Thomas*	6-6/220	Sr.	5.3	3.6	2.0	44.4	88.9	34.4

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	John Lucas III*	5-11/155	13.3	2.4	4.4	43.5	87.1	31.1
F	Lawrence Roberts*	6-9/230	15.2	10.4	1.5	42.1	68.4	26.2
G	Kenny Taylor*	6-3/185	11.8	2.1	1.5	40.5	73.3	39.0

Schedule

N22	Texas Southern	D19-21	Hawaii Slam*	J24	Iowa State	F18	at Kansas
N25	Stephen F. Austin	D22	Northern Illinois	J28	Oklahoma	F21	Missouri
N29	Texas A&M-CC	J3	at Purdue	J31	at Colorado	F25	at Texas A&M
D9	at North Texas	J6	Texas-Pan Am	F3	at Texas Tech	F28	Oklahoma St.
D13	UT-San Antonio	J10	at Texas	F7	Texas A&M	M3	Kansas State
D16	La.-Monroe	J17	Texas Tech	F10	Texas	M6	at Oklahoma
		J21	at Nebraska	F14	at Oklahoma St.		*at Laie, Hawaii

ATLANTIC COAST



J.J. Redick

AUGUST MILLER / TSN

Duke is supreme, but North Carolina is on its way back

Last March 9, North Carolina beat Duke, which was then ranked No. 9 in the Associated Press poll. That caused Carolina supporters to storm the Smith Center court in jubilation. It seemingly was a high point of the Tar Heels' season, but really, it was more sobering than anything. Carolina, with its proud tradition, had just beaten Duke at home, and it was considered a major upset. Ouch.

Though there were other reasons for Matt Doherty's ouster as coach—he was too demanding; he was too emotional; players were threatening to revolt—the bottom line was this: The Tar Heels, after a combined 27-36 record the last two seasons, had become ordinary. Now the Heels are back on the road toward greatness. After Roy Williams was asked, and asked again, he finally said "yes" and returned to his alma mater, where he began his coaching career as an assistant to Dean Smith.

Despite Carolina's recent struggles, no rebuilding job is necessary. The Heels have at least three future NBA players, including Raymond Felton, one of the nation's top point guards. Williams thrives at coaching uptempo basketball, and he has the players to run. As for the future, Williams has some of the nation's top high school prospects lining up, hoping for the chance to don Carolina blue.

This season, Duke appears to be the class of the league—perhaps the nation. The Blue Devils won't relinquish their upper-class status anytime soon. But this much is clear: The heat has been turned up on Tobacco Road.

ASCENDING: Florida State. The days of ACC teams automatically chalking up a "W" next to the Seminoles' name on the schedule appear to be over. Leonard Hamilton is orchestrating a turnaround in Tallahassee. Four starters, including stand-out guard Tim Pickett, return, and they will be pushed by a highly regarded recruiting class. The headliner is athletic wing Von Wafer. The improved talent pool

2002-03 team statistics

Offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Duke	33	45.3	71.2	36.3	36.5	13.5	8.7	5.4	14.0	81.1
Maryland	31	46.4	71.3	39.0	40.0	18.5	10.4	6.4	13.9	79.7
Wake Forest	31	45.3	75.2	34.1	41.7	14.2	6.5	4.6	15.3	77.8
Georgia Tech	31	45.0	68.1	35.2	38.3	15.6	7.8	5.3	15.1	74.1
Virginia	32	45.1	65.8	37.2	37.7	14.4	5.8	4.3	16.5	73.9
N.C. State	31	45.6	77.0	35.6	31.9	14.7	7.7	3.2	14.2	72.5
North Carolina	35	43.6	66.3	35.3	34.2	15.9	8.4	4.7	14.9	72.1
Clemson	28	44.2	65.7	34.7	35.9	12.5	7.1	2.6	13.5	68.4
Florida State	29	43.2	67.2	33.3	34.6	13.9	9.4	4.5	14.9	68.1

Defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Florida State	29	39.1	73.7	33.8	36.9	13.4	6.9	3.2	16.3	66.6
Maryland	31	37.8	70.0	32.2	37.3	12.9	7.0	4.4	17.6	66.7
Wake Forest	31	39.7	68.9	33.5	32.0	11.9	7.3	4.4	13.7	67.8
Clemson	28	43.3	68.6	34.4	33.7	14.6	7.0	3.2	14.4	68.1
N.C. State	31	44.0	72.4	33.8	32.2	12.7	7.5	2.8	14.6	68.3
Duke	33	43.3	69.9	33.8	35.2	12.1	6.2	4.1	17.9	69.6
Georgia Tech	31	42.5	68.9	36.0	34.9	15.1	7.8	4.2	14.9	69.8
North Carolina	35	43.7	69.1	34.6	38.5	14.0	8.2	4.4	16.6	71.2
Virginia	32	43.5	71.2	32.6	35.1	13.5	8.5	3.8	13.0	74.6

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Wake Forest	13	3	25	6
Maryland	11	5	21	10
Duke	11	5	27	6
N.C. State	9	7	18	13
Georgia Tech	7	9	16	15
Virginia	6	10	16	16
North Carolina	6	10	19	16
Clemson	5	11	15	13
Florida State	4	12	14	15

and depth should lessen the burden on Pickett and foster a healthy, competitive atmosphere. This team should see postseason play in 2004.

DESCENDING: Virginia. The Cavaliers went 6-10 in the ACC last season, and they haven't made the NCAA Tournament the past two seasons. It appears they will spend at least another season treading water, at best, because most of the league's teams are in position to show improvement. Two players, Keith Jenifer and Jermaine Harper, have transferred out of the program since last season. The Cavs also must fight the progress rival Virginia Tech figures to make when the Hokies join the ACC for the 2004-05 season.

PLAYERS ON THE RISE:

1. Jarrett Jack, G, Georgia Tech. With Chris Bosh declaring for the draft and Ed Nelson transferring, the Yellow Jackets will evolve into a small team that will push the tempo. That's the way Paul Hewitt coached at Siena. Jack should build on a solid freshman year, one in which he had seven or more assists in 13 games. Jack needs to smooth out his long-range shooting and cut down on his turnovers, but he has time to make those improvements. It should be fun to see Jack run and gun along with B.J. Elder, Marvin Lewis and Arizona transfer Will Bynum,

who will be eligible in December.

2. Eric Williams, C, Wake Forest. The Demon Deacons lost ACC Player of the Year Josh Howard, but their future is sparkling. A big—as in, *big*—reason is Williams. As long as he keeps his weight down and avoids foul trouble, Williams should lead this young squad back near the top of the conference. For his size, Williams has nimble feet and soft hands. He does, however, need to be more ferocious on the boards. Williams should be aided by the addition of freshman point guard Chris Paul, who, like Williams, is a former McDonald's All-American.

3. John Gilchrist, G, Maryland. For the first time in four years, the Terrapins won't have Steve Blake running their offense. That duty will fall to Gilchrist, who, like Blake, strives to get his teammates involved first. Gilchrist has great quickness, which enables him to penetrate and dish. He should continue to develop as a scorer. Gilchrist displays excellent accuracy and shot selection; he shot 59.2 percent from the field a season ago in limited time behind Blake. Gilchrist also can force turnovers and play solid pressure defense, thanks to his quickness and energy. Gilchrist is an excellent successor to Blake.

TSN

E-mail associate editor Kyle Veltrop at kveltrop@sportingnews.com.

RANKING THE 2003 RECRUITING CLASSES

By Mike Sullivan, Rivals.com

- 1. Florida State.** Could be the best class in the country. Von Wafer is one of the best offensive players, and Antonio Griffin, Alexander Johnson and Diego Romero all could have major roles this season.
- 2. Maryland.** Mike Jones is an explosive 6-5 guard who can jump to the sky. Ekene Ibekwe can torch a defense. Hassan Fofana, D.J. Strawberry and 6-11 center Will Bowers also are quality recruits.
- 3. Virginia.** Late recruits Gary Forbes and J.R. Reynolds should thrive in an uptempo offense and, along with guard T.J. Bannister and forwards Jason Cain and Donte Minter, could make this a solid class.
- 4. Wake Forest.** Chris Paul was a top 20 player last season and will score a lot of points. Kyle Visser and Todd Hendley likely will develop into key players, as should Jeremy Ingram.
- 5. Duke.** The best freshman in the nation, Luol Deng, can play five positions. He has the leadership ability to make the other four guys around him much better.
- 6. Clemson.** Lamar Rice can contribute right away. He helped his junior college win a national title.
- 7. North Carolina.** Reyshawn Terry is a quality pickup and should develop into a decent ACC player.
- 8. N. C. State.** Engin Atsur's experience and skills should earn him minutes this season.
- 9. Georgia Tech.** The Yellow Jackets need help at guard, so Will Bynum will contribute immediately.

Best bets

1. Josh Howard clearly was the best player in the ACC last season, but Wake Forest won't miss him too dearly. Eric Williams, Justin Gray, Vytas Danelius, Taron Downey and Jamaal Levy already form a good nucleus, and incoming freshman point guard Chris Paul soon will be a star. None of these players is a senior. This team should grow together to become great.

2. Oliver Purnell will miss the comfort of coaching at Dayton, which is where he was before taking over Clemson. The Tigers are

lacking in proven players, and they probably have less talent than anyone else in the ACC. This could be a long season for Purnell.

3. Not much is expected from Maryland, but that's a good reason to fear Gary Williams' squad. The key players from the 2002 title team are gone, but this edition will be athletic and should play with energy. You may not be familiar with all of their names, but John Gilchrist, Nik Caner-Medley, Travis Garrison and Mike Jones, to name a few, will end this season the same way Steve Blake, Drew Nicholas and Tahj Holden had grown accustomed to—in the NCAA Tournament.

Predictions

1. Duke*
2. North Carolina*
3. Wake Forest*
4. N.C. State*
5. Maryland*

6. Florida State
7. Georgia Tech
8. Virginia
9. Clemson

*NCAA Tournament pick

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	J.J. Redick, Duke	6-4	200	So.
G	Raymond Felton, N. Carolina	6-1	192	So.
G	Tim Pickett, Florida State	6-4	205	Sr.
G/F	Julius Hodge, N.C. State	6-6	191	Jr.
C	Sean May, North Carolina	6-8	266	So.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G/F	Rashad McCants, N. Carolina	6-4	205	So.
G	Justin Gray, Wake Forest	6-2	185	So.
F	Shelden Williams, Duke	6-9	245	So.
F	Jamar Smith, Maryland	6-9	239	Sr.
F	Marcus Melvin, N.C. State	6-8	230	Sr.

Player spotlight

Player of the year

Raymond Felton

Roy Williams coaching at Carolina is scary for ACC opponents. Williams coaching Felton at Carolina is downright hellish. Felton will take off in Williams' uptempo system, which stresses the secondary break. Look for the Heels to average 90-plus points. Felton is extremely quick, athletic and smart with the ball. He will make Sean May and Rashad McCants stars. Felton averaged 6.7 assists as a freshman, and he should bump that up by a couple and continue to develop as a top scoring option.



Newcomer of the year

Luol Deng, SF, Duke

Many considered him to be the best high school player not named LeBron last season. Deng, a native of the Sudan, speaks three languages but is lauded most for his basketball intelligence. He has a great understanding of the game, and he is unselfish. At 6-8, the long-armed Deng can play on the perimeter or he can thrive inside. Even on Duke's loaded roster, Deng will earn plenty of minutes. His versatility and skill level will ensure that.

Most underrated

B.J. Elder, SG, Georgia Tech

Overshadowed by the arrival of Chris Bosh and Jarrett Jack last season, Elder put together a strong sophomore season in which he ranked second on the team in scoring (15.0). Elder, who at 6-4 can shoot over zones or perimeter defenders, established himself as one of the nation's most dangerous shooters. Though most guys who can put it up from long-range run hot and cold, Elder hit a solid 46.1 percent from the field, including 39.6 from 3-point range.

1. Duke

WHAT WE LIKE: Few teams in college basketball have a track record to rival the Blue Devils, who have won no fewer than 24 games for seven consecutive seasons, including a 26-7 record last season, when they won an unprecedented fifth consecutive ACC Tournament title. Coach Mike Krzyzewski loses first-team all-conference selection Dahntay Jones, a hard-nosed fifth-year senior, but in 6-8 Luol Deng the Blue Devils welcome the No. 1 incoming freshman in the country. Deng, skilled and explosive, is so highly regarded that most observers believe he will start as a freshman and that Coach K will have to find a way to juggle three distinguished returning perimeter players—Chris Duhon, J.J. Redick and Daniel Ewing. Ewing started only 15 of 33 games last season, but you can't sit the ACC Tournament MVP. Ewing didn't exactly sit last season, when he averaged 27.9 minutes and 12.0 points. That was third on the team behind Jones and Redick, who scored 30 points in the ACC championship game as the Blue Devils overcame a 15-point deficit in the final 11:45 to beat North Carolina State, 84-77. Redick scored 23 points in the final 10:07 and is capable of breaking open any game with his lethal 3-point shooting. Redick's rookie year obscured an outstanding freshman season by Shelden Williams, who led the Blue Devils in rebounding and has the potential to become one of the nation's top power forwards.

WHAT SCARES US: Despite the ACC title run, there were chinks in the Blue Devils' armor. For one, they finished two games behind Wake Forest in the regular-season race. For another, they waited until it was almost too late before dispatching N.C. State in the tournament final. They were eliminated by a worthy foe, Kansas, in the NCAA Tournament because their shoot-

ers, most notably Redick, were off target. That happens, but Duke isn't used to going home after the region semifinals. The Blue Devils have frontcourt issues that need to be resolved, especially with the departure of Jones and Casey Sanders, who were their second- and third-leading rebounders. In the same conference that boasted the top rebounding team in Division I, Wake Forest, Duke was 121st last season. The Blue Devils need more out of Shavlik Randolph, a highly touted recruit who was listed at 6-10 and 215 pounds when the 2002-2003 season started. Randolph, who arrived with a taste for the perimeter game, won't be as easy to push around now that he's 235 pounds. However, he had surgery May 5 for a labral tear and a bone spur in his left hip, and it will be interesting to see if he is completely healed by the start of the season and whether the surgery has given him more mobility.

X-FACTOR: By the end of last season, Duhon had become the answer to the trivia question: "Who was the 2002-2003 ACC preseason player of the year?" Though Duhon started 32 of 33 games and played a team-high 1,188 minutes, he made only third-team All-ACC and probably was fortunate to get that much credit. Duhon, who played shooting guard as a freshman in 2000-01 before changing places with point guard Jay Williams, has given the Blue Devils what they need as a playmaker (212 assists, a 2.16 assist-to-turnover ratio in 2002-2003), but his shooting is a growing concern. After shooting 41.0 percent from the field as a sophomore, he dipped to 38.6 last season, including 27.3 (35-of-128) on 3-point attempts, with his shot selection occasionally in question. What's more, he shot 68.8 percent from the free-throw line. A 9-for-38 shooting slump over five games cost Duhon his starting job for one game at midseason, but it's unlikely that Krzyzewski is ready to hand the job over to sophomore Sean Dockery on a permanent basis—at least not yet. The Blue Devils will go only as far as Duhon can take them.

Chris Duhon



AUGUST MILLER/TSN

An ACC coach says: Shelden Williams has to be good. I'm not sure Michael Thompson, Nick Horvath and Shavlik Randolph can get them through the schedule they play in the ACC. Also, is Duhon on board? Last year, you'd see him hugging Coach K, but there were times he didn't start after halftime and you'd wonder. My guess is he's a good enough kid he'll be fine. Randolph is finding his way. Potentially, Luol Deng is tremendous. He can play a couple positions. He can put you in a difficult situation. He can post you up, face you up. He's as good as anybody coming in the league.

Blue Devils data

Coach: Mike Krzyzewski (591-174, 23 years; 664-233 overall, 28 years; NCAA Tournament 60-16; won NCAA titles in 1991, 1992 and 2001).

Assistant coaches: Johnny Dawkins (5 years), Steve Wojciechowski (4), Chris Collins (3).
2002-03 record: 27-6. ACC: 11-

5/T2nd. Lost to Kansas in NCAA West semifinal.

Last regular-season title: 2001 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.

Site: Durham, N.C.
Home court: Cameron Indoor Stadium (9,314).

Website: www.goduke.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
41	G	Patrick Davidson	6-1/180	Fr.						
2	F	Luol Deng	6-8/220	Fr.	Second only to LeBron James in class.					
15	G	Sean Dockery	6-2/175	So.	3.3	1.4	1.0	41.9	62.2	36.4
21	G	Chris Duhon*	6-1/190	Sr.	9.2	3.2	6.4	38.6	68.8	27.3
5	G	Daniel Ewing*	6-3/170	Jr.	12.0	3.2	1.4	43.0	82.1	40.0
3	F	Nick Horvath	6-10/235	Sr.	3.9	2.9	0.5	50.0	70.4	23.5
51	F	Patrick Johnson	6-9/225	Jr.	0.2	0.0	0.2	—	25.0	—
53	G	Andy Means	6-5/200	Sr.	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.0	50.0	—
13	G	Lee Melchionni	6-6/200	So.	1.0	0.7	0.4	40.0	33.3	33.3
42	F	Shavlik Randolph	6-10/235	So.	7.4	3.9	0.3	50.4	68.3	36.8
4	G	J.J. Redick*	6-4/200	So.	15.0	2.5	2.0	41.3	91.9	39.9
50	C	Michael Thompson	6-10/250	So.	1.3	0.5	0.0	53.8	85.7	—
23	F	Shelden Williams*	6-9/245	So.	8.2	5.9	0.5	51.6	62.5	0.0

Key losses

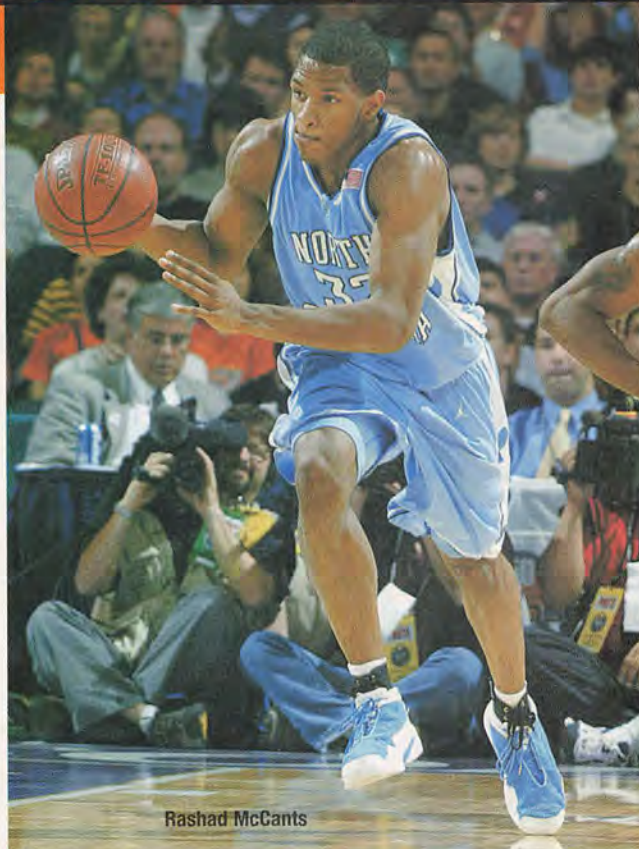
Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
G/F	Dahntay Jones*	6-6/210	17.7	5.5	0.9	47.0	74.9	39.8
C	Casey Sanders	6-11/235	4.6	5.2	0.4	56.3	47.4	—

2. North Carolina

WHAT WE LIKE: All is right in Blue Heaven with the return of favorite son Roy Williams, a Carolina alumnus and former assistant who had turned down the job once earlier before agreeing in April to succeed Matt Doherty as the Tar Heels' coach. Williams is coming off a trip to the NCAA championship game and a 30-8 season, his fifth 30-win season in 15 seasons at Kansas, where he put together a sparkling 418-101 record in the only head-coaching job of his career. Aside from an injury to freshman post man Sean May, there was nothing wrong with Carolina's talent last season, as evidenced by its championship in the Preseason NIT. However, there was growing friction with third-year coach Doherty, whose team improved to 19-16 after going 8-20 in 2001-2002 but faced the possibility of player defections for the second year in a row. Now, everybody with remaining eligibility is back, headed by third-team all-conference selection Raymond Felton, a point guard whose 92 votes for the league all-freshman team tied ACC Rookie of the Year Chris Bosh of Georgia Tech. Felton, whose 6.7 assists average ranked second in the conference, was joined on the all-freshman team by Rashad McCants, whose late-season slump didn't prevent him from leading the Tar Heels in scoring at 17.0 points. If the team had done better, steady Jawad Williams would have received more postseason consideration. Williams can do a little bit of everything: He was second on the team in scoring, rebounding and assists and first in blocked shots. He made 45 3-pointers and hit 75.2 percent of his free throws.

WHAT SCARES US: The Tar Heels, for all their talent, were an ordinary team for much of last season. Chalk some of that up to the unavailability of May. Blame some of it on the players' inability to relate to Doherty, but it's not as if he was out on the floor. Williams should receive unqualified respect, based on his record, but the players and their parents must prove they're not a group of spoiled head cases, as some perceive them nationally. McCants, for one, developed a reputation for pouting during a midseason nosedive in which he shot 10-for-46 over a four-game span, including back-to-back games against Duke and Florida State in which he was a combined 1-for-15 from the floor. Even with May back at full strength, Carolina's best lineup includes a pair of skinny forwards, Williams and Jackie Manuel. The Tar Heels finished last in the ACC in rebounding last season with a differential of minus-4.4 per game. Byron Sanders, who received many opportunities in the post after the injury to fellow freshman May, still needs to prove he's an ACC-caliber player after failing to score in double figures in a single game.

X-FACTOR: Almost as critical to the Tar Heels' success as Roy Williams is the return of May, who suffered a broken foot December 27 in a loss to Iona and did not play again until March 15, when his appearance against Duke in the ACC Tournament did not have a Willis Reed-type effect. May had four points and three rebounds against the Blue Devils and, though he did not damage the foot, it was decided that the best course was to shut him down for the rest of the season. May began the season by scoring in double figures in six of the first seven games, with a high of 21 points in a loss to Illinois, and had 10 or more rebounds in five games. Statistics suggest there was something wrong with his foot even before he was sidelined in the Iona game. If there wasn't, the numbers indicate that teams had begun to contain him; he scored six points against Vermont and shot 3-for-12 from the field in a seven-point outing against Florida State. At his best, May is a skilled player in a power player's body. He blocked five shots in UNC's 67-56 victory over eventual NCAA runner-up Kansas in the Preseason NIT semifinals, when he also had his second four-steal game of the early season.



Rashad McCants

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

An ACC coach says: They're the second-best team in the league, and I don't think it has anything to do with Roy Williams. Games aren't played 3-on-3, but they have the best three players: Raymond Felton, Rashad McCants and Sean May. May looked great at the Nike camp. He's healthy, he's lost weight. Depth could be a question. Defense could be a problem because of the lack of depth up front. How Roy determines how they're going to defend at a high level and keep May in the game for 32, 33 minutes a game is going to play a huge role in how far they go.

Tar Heels data

Coach: Roy Williams (1st year; 418-101 overall, 15 years; NCAA Tournament 34-14).
Assistant coaches: Joe Holladay (1st year), Steve Robinson (1st), Jerod Haase (1st).
2002-03 record: 19-16. ACC: 6-10/T6th. Lost to Georgetown in

NIT quarterfinal.

Last regular-season title: 2001 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Chapel Hill, N.C.
Home court: Smith Center (21,750).
Website: www.tarheelblue.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
22	F	Justin Bolander	6-7/189	Fr.	Walk-on at H.S. teammate of Terry's.					
2	G	Raymond Felton*	6-0/185	So.	12.9	4.1	6.7	39.8	69.3	35.8
25	C	Damion Grant	6-11/255	So.	1.6	1.5	0.0	39.3	57.1	—
5	G/F	Jackie Manuel*	6-5/185	Jr.	7.3	4.0	2.0	42.1	61.3	26.4
42	F	Sean May*	6-9/250	So.	11.4	8.1	1.0	47.2	57.5	0.0
32	G/F	Rashad McCants*	6-4/205	So.	17.0	4.6	1.5	49.1	69.7	41.4
30	F	Phillip McLamb	6-6/215	Sr.	1.0	0.3	0.2	100.0	50.0	100.0
31	G	Jonathan Miller	6-1/194	Sr.	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	—	0.0
34	F	David Noel	6-5/210	So.	5.9	3.5	1.4	50.6	53.5	28.1
15	G	Damien Price	5-11/198	Sr.	0.5	0.2	0.0	50.0	50.0	—
41	F	Byron Sanders	6-8/215	So.	1.9	2.4	0.4	33.3	53.6	—
1	G	Melvin Scott	6-2/179	Jr.	6.3	1.9	1.1	37.8	54.2	38.0
3	F	Reyshawn Terry	6-8/212	Fr.	MVP of 2002 N.C. state tournament.					
21	F	Jawad Williams*	6-8/200	Jr.	14.9	5.6	2.0	44.8	75.2	33.1

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Will Johnson	6-8/218	1.7	1.3	0.4	32.6	81.0	31.3

3. Wake Forest

WHAT WE LIKE: Skip Prosser's teams have won 20 games or more in seven consecutive seasons, including five at Xavier, and he was named ACC Coach of the Year last season after the Deacons went 13-3 in the regular season and broke the school record for conference victories. Prosser, who signed a 10-year contract extension in April, has made the Deacons a force in North Carolina recruiting. This season, he welcomes Chris Paul, one of the nation's premier point guards. Paul will join an underrated backcourt of Justin Gray, who emerged as one of the league's big surprises last season, and Taron Downey. An unheralded teammate of Carmelo Anthony's at Oak Hill Academy in Virginia, Gray missed eight games because of a broken nose midway through the season but averaged nearly 15 points after his return. That included a season-high 26 points, including five 3-pointers, in a 68-62 season-ending loss to Auburn in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Vytas Danelius is the only double-figure scorer returning to a frontcourt that includes post man Eric Williams and Jamaal Levy, but this is a group—minus ACC Player of the Year Josh Howard—that led the NCAA in rebounding, the first ACC team to accomplish that feat. As he has gotten stronger, Danelius has prompted more comparisons to his taller fellow Lithuanian, former Deacon Darius Songaila. Last season, Danelius added a 3-point dimension to his game. After missing his three 3-point attempts as a freshman in 2001-2002, Danelius was 18-for-48 last season.

Schedule

N8	William & Mary*
N22	Elon
N29	at Yale
D2	Indiana
D6	Richmond
D15	at SMU
D20	at North Carolina
D30	North Carolina A&T
J3	New Mexico
J6	Brown
J10	Clemson
J13	at Texas
J17	at Duke
J20	Georgia Tech
J25	at Florida State
J29	Maryland
J31	Virginia
F4	at N.C. State
F7	North Carolina
F12	at Clemson
F15	Cincinnati
F18	Duke
F22	at Georgia Tech
F25	Florida State
F28	at Maryland
M2	at Virginia
M6	N.C. State
*New York City	

steals, blocked shots and 3-point field goals. He also went to the free throw line 174 times and shot 83.3 percent. Moreover, he wanted to be the guy with the ball in his hands at the end of games. He had the shooting and ballhandling skills of a small forward or big guard, but he also had the numbers and body of a power forward. A Williams-Danelius-Levy frontcourt will be able to crash the boards, but can the Deacons afford to go in that direction? The player on the roster who is closest to Howard in playing style is sophomore Trent Strickland, who is listed as a guard but is pushing 6-5. Strickland came off the bench to score 12 points in 16 minutes in a double-overtime victory over Duke, but he did not play more than six minutes in any of the Deacons' last five games. Neither Williams nor Levy is a bona fide scorer, which means Danelius and Gray will have to make up for a lot of Howard's production. But Danelius and Gray likely will draw more attention from defenses this season.

X-FACTOR: Williams made a big early impression last season, scoring in double figures in nine of his first 10 games, but his scoring tailed off during conference play. He went through one stretch in which he failed to score in double figures in 15 of 16 games, and he was no factor on the boards down the stretch. Williams did not have a rebound in four of the team's last 11 games, had just one rebound in two other games over that span and battled chronic foul problems. He fouled out of five games, including his best game in the final month: a 20-point, nine-rebound effort against East Tennessee State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Williams has battled weight problems since he was in high school in Wake Forest, N.C., but he should become better-conditioned the longer he is exposed to a college weight program. That might help him to avoid some of the knee problems that sidelined him at times in the past.



Vytas Danelius

BOB LEGERONE / TSN

An ACC coach says: They lose the best player in the league, but I think they can rebound from that. Vytas Danelius is a rising star. They'll have to develop somebody who can make the play when the game is on the line. Justin Gray could become that guy. Danelius, maybe. I like the chemistry. As good as Gray and Taron Downey are, Chris Paul has a chance to come in there and start from Day 1. Skip Prosser will have to find a way to keep happiness among those three. I think Gray will primarily be a two guard. They would be awful small if they played Paul, Downey and Gray together.

Demon Deacons data

Coach: Skip Prosser (46-19, 2 years; 211-97 overall, 10 years; NCAA Tournament 3-7).

Assistant coaches: Jeff Battle (2 years), Dino Gaudio (2), Chris Mack (2).

2002-03 record: 25-6, ACC: 13-3/1st. Lost to Auburn in NCAA East

second round.

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Winston-Salem, N.C.

Home court: Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum (14,665).

Website: www.wakeforestsports.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
13	F	Vytas Danelius*	6-8/228	Jr.	12.3	8.3	1.3	51.0	78.4	37.5
4	G	Taron Downey*	6-2/171	Jr.	10.2	3.5	4.2	36.8	86.1	34.0
0	F	Chris Ellis	6-8/250	So.	2.8	2.5	0.2	50.0	60.9	0.0
1	G	Justin Gray	6-2/185	So.	12.7	3.6	3.5	38.9	78.7	30.7
34	F	Todd Hendley	6-9/213	Fr.	Runs the floor well and battles inside.					
2	G	Jeremy Ingram	6-3/185	Fr.	A true shooting guard who can slash, too.					
10	F	Jamaal Levy*	6-9/180	Jr.	7.2	6.8	1.9	48.2	57.1	28.2
3	G	Chris Paul	6-0/168	Fr.	Tremendous passer and athlete.					
33	G	Trent Strickland	6-5/190	So.	4.3	1.9	0.6	37.7	78.8	35.0
55	C	Kyle Visser	6-11/224	Fr.	Good size, steady mid-range shooter.					
31	C	Eric Williams*	6-9/270	So.	8.2	3.9	0.6	54.6	59.6	—

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Josh Howard*	6-6/203	19.5	8.3	1.9	47.7	83.3	37.3
G	Steve Lepore	6-5/202	2.7	1.5	0.8	45.2	75.0	36.0

4. N.C. State

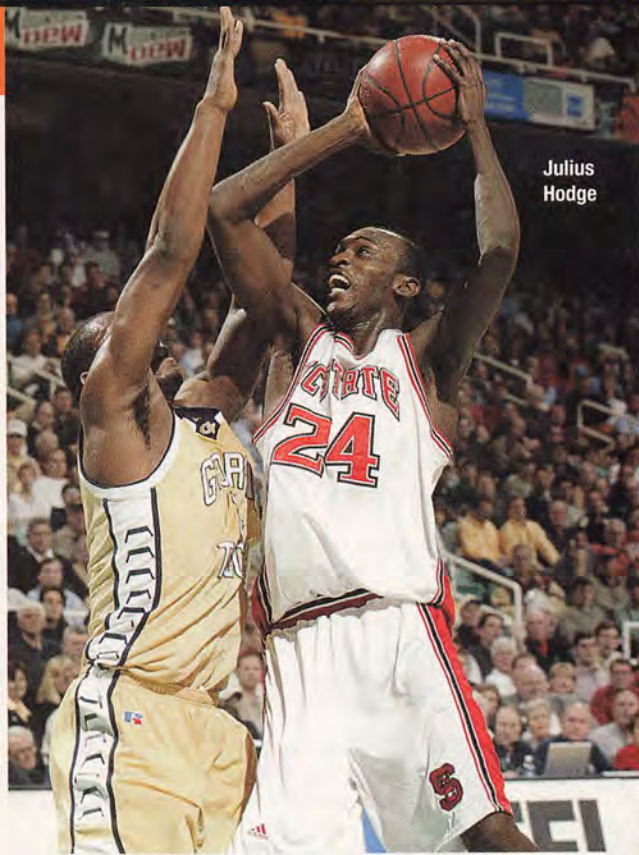
WHAT WE LIKE: In 6-6 junior Julius Hodge, the Wolfpack has the second-leading vote-getter from last season's All-ACC team and the only underclassman among the first five. Hodge is the top returning scorer in the ACC, but more than that he is State's security blanket. For the past two years, the Wolfpack prospered, making back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances, because coach Herb Sendek knew

he could give the ball to Hodge when offense was needed. Then-senior Clifford Crawford led the Wolfpack with 131 assists last season, but Hodge finished with 109 and is capable of taking the reins until one of State's young point guards develops. Plus, he can make free throws. When he isn't playing point guard, Hodge has the size to play small forward—an arrangement that suits the Wolfpack, which last season benefited from 6-3 guard Scooter Sherrill's shooting prowess. After making 25 3-pointers as a sophomore in 2001-2002, Sherrill connected on 70 last season, good for fifth place in the ACC. He also was fifth in 3-point shooting percentage at 40.0. State should have an outside-oriented style again this season in the Princeton-like scheme that Sendek and assistant Larry Hunter installed two years ago. It's perfectly suited to senior Marcus Melvin, who does not play like a typical 6-8, 230-pounder in that he is willing to drift outside and launch lefthanded 3-point attempts. Melvin, who was honorable mention All-ACC, made 64 3-pointers last season, placing him one spot behind Sherrill in the league rankings.

WHAT SCARES US: The Wolfpack would have been set if Josh Powell hadn't had such a

stellar ACC Tournament, planting the seed for an early move to the NBA. Powell was brilliant in the title game, when he scored 26 points and probably would have been the MVP if State had beaten Duke. Although there was no indication Powell would be taken in the first round, he kept his name in the draft pool and never was selected, eventually signing with Dallas as a free agent. Powell averaged 12.4 points and 5.3 rebounds last season, but he was the closest thing the Wolfpack had to a low-post presence. Hodge led State in rebounding, and Melvin was second. After a knee injury caused him to miss more than half of the 2001-2002 season, Levi Watkins played nearly 22 minutes per game last season. Despite his size (6-8, 227), Watkins was more of a perimeter player—he attempted 99 3-pointers—and needs to become more of a factor on the boards. Jordan Collins, a once-touted recruit, has a chance to help inside. Like the team's other post men, Collins needs to develop more of a power game.

X-FACTORS: Two years ago, when N.C. State made the first of its back-to-back appearances in the ACC championship game, one of the big stories was 6-7 freshman Ilian Evtimov, a "point forward" who came off the bench to score 15 and 12 points in State's quarterfinal and semifinal victories. Evtimov, a Bulgarian native whose older brother played at North Carolina, was expected to have a major role in 2002-2003 before suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament in the preseason and having to redshirt. After reconstructive surgery, Evtimov should be good to go this season. He won't be much help on the boards—that sounds like a broken record—but he is a dangerous 3-point shooter (40-of-108 in 2001-02) and adept as a passer (59 assists). He won't wow anybody with his quickness, but he had four steals in a game twice in 2001-2002. The Wolfpack might have uncovered another international gem in Engin Atsur, a 6-3 Turkish guard who averaged 22.3 points in the 2002 European championships.



Julius Hodge

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

An ACC coach says: Part of me doesn't like State's team, but they'll be able to put five guys on the floor who can shoot from the perimeter. That bodes well for Herb Sendek's system. Any coach in America would say you have to have a good point guard, and you have to have a good big guy. They don't have a bona fide point guard—a leader with the ball in his hands. Losing Josh Powell inside is huge. Marcus Melvin is not a low-post guy. Herb's system works with the character of that team. They need to find a point man quicker than they need to find a low-post presence.

Wolfpack data

Coach: Herb Sendek (127-98, 7 years; 190-124 overall, 10 years; NCAA Tournament 2-3).

Assistant coaches: Larry Harris (7 years), Mark Phelps (7), Larry Hunter (2).

2002-03 record: 18-13. ACC: 9-7/4th. Lost to California in NCAA East

first round.

Last regular-season title: 1987.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1992.

Site: Raleigh, N.C.

Home court: Entertainment and Sports Arena (19,722).

Website: www.gopack.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
14	G	Engin Atsur	6-3/185	Fr.	Played for Turkish national team.					
13	G	Cameron Bennerman	6-4/199	So.	2.3	1.3	0.6	52.9	50.0	40.0
32	C	Jordan Collins	6-10/232	Jr.	1.4	0.9	0.4	42.3	80.0	28.6
3	F	Ilian Evtimov	6-7/231	So.	Redshirted; recovering from ACL injury.					
24	F/G	Julius Hodge*	6-6/191	Jr.	17.7	6.1	3.5	43.9	81.7	32.8
12	G	Dominick Mejia	6-4/206	So.	1.9	0.4	0.6	30.8	88.9	30.0
54	F	Marcus Melvin*	6-8/230	Sr.	12.9	5.8	1.9	41.9	78.6	37.6
4	G	Mike O'Donnell	5-11/160	Fr.	An old-school player who isn't flashy.					
23	G	Scooter Sherrill*	6-3/186	Sr.	10.5	2.7	1.4	41.1	87.0	40.0
34	C	Adam Simons	6-10/242	Fr.	Redshirted last season.					
21	F	Levi Watkins	6-8/227	Jr.	5.6	2.5	1.4	39.3	60.0	30.3

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Clifford Crawford*	6-3/190	9.2	4.5	4.2	52.7	64.8	35.0
C/F	Josh Powell*	6-9/223	12.4	5.3	1.0	57.1	73.9	37.5

5. Maryland

WHAT WE LIKE: After seven consecutive 20-win seasons, back-to-back trips to the Final Four and one national championship, it's safe to assume Gary Williams will find a way to make Maryland competitive again this season. However, it might take one of his best coaching efforts because he welcomes back only one player who started more than six games: athletic forward Nik Caner-Medley. Caner-Medley, forward Travis Garrison and John Gilchrist all averaged more than 10 minutes last season, when Gilchrist established himself as a worthy successor to Steve Blake at point guard. Mike Jones, the team's most celebrated recruit, has a chance to be a much-needed scorer on the wing.

WHAT SCARES US: On the surface, the Terps face a massive rebuilding effort after losing their top four scorers and five of the top seven. In addition, Maryland does not have a returning player who grabbed as many as four rebounds per game last season. No one averaged more playing time than Caner-Medley's 16.7 minutes. Maryland made 204 3-point field goals last season, and 167 were by players who completed their eligibility. Two of Williams' options from the wing, Caner-Medley and Chris McCray, were a combined 20-for-53 from behind the arc. If this collection of players wasn't wearing Maryland jerseys or didn't have Williams as coach, it might be picked to finish eighth.

X-FACTOR: The Terps must hope Jamar Smith will have the same kind of senior year as his junior college predecessor, Ryan Randle. After averaging 3.8 points and 3.1 rebounds on the NCAA championship team, Randle became a starter and averaged 12.7 points and 7.2 rebounds last season. Smith's junior numbers—5.9 points and 3.9 rebounds—were better than Randle's.

Terrapins data

Coach: Gary Williams (295-153, 13 years; 502-281 overall, 25 years; NCAA Tournament 25-12; won NCAA title in 2002).

Assistant coaches: Jimmy Patsos (12 years), Dave Dickerson (7), Matt Kovarik (2).

2002-03 record: 21-10. ACC:

11-5/T2nd. Lost to Michigan State in NCAA South semifinal.

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1993.

Site: College Park, Md.

Home court: Comcast Center (17,100).

Website: www.umterps.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
	C	Will Bowers	6-11/230	Fr.	A formidable inside presence and shooter.					
22	F	Nik Caner-Medley*	6-8/220	So.	5.9	3.5	1.0	53.6	58.1	37.0
	F/C	Hassan Fofana	6-10/270	Fr.	Former soccer player has superb footwork.					
4	F	Travis Garrison	6-8/234	So.	4.0	3.1	0.5	46.9	68.4	33.3
11	G	John Gilchrist	6-3/190	So.	4.6	2.1	1.7	59.2	68.8	54.5
	F	Ekene Ibekwe	6-9/190	Fr.	Has height, quickness and shooting touch.					
	F	Mike Jones	6-5/180	Fr.	Quick, powerful and a 3-point ace.					
13	G	Chris McCray	6-4/166	So.	3.1	1.6	0.8	43.1	65.2	38.5
1	F/C	Jamar Smith	6-9/239	Sr.	5.9	3.9	0.3	48.1	54.5	0.0
	G	D.J. Strawberry	6-4/175	Fr.	Staunch defender and a playmaker.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Steve Blake*	6-3/160	11.6	3.7	7.1	41.5	81.9	41.6
F	Tahj Holden*	6-10/247	8.7	4.4	1.8	40.7	71.7	31.5
G	Calvin McCall	6-3/200	4.8	3.4	1.5	46.5	73.3	30.8
G	Drew Nicholas*	6-3/160	17.8	3.8	2.7	44.0	85.2	41.0
C	Ryan Randle*	6-9/245	12.7	7.2	0.8	49.4	61.1	25.0

Schedule

N22 American	D14 Pepperdine	J21 Duke	F19 Georgia Tech
N25 George Mason	D23 UNC Greensboro	J25 at Clemson	F22 at Duke
N29 Hofstra	D28 at Florida State	J29 at Wake Forest	F24 Clemson
D2 Wisconsin	J3 Mount St. Mary's	F1 N.C. State	F28 Wake Forest
D6-7 BB&T Classic*	J6 Md.-East. Shore	F4 at Virginia	M3 at N.C. State
D10 at Florida	J14 North Carolina	F8 Florida State	M7 Virginia
	J17 at Georgia Tech	F15 at North Carolina	*at Washington, D.C.

6. Florida State

WHAT WE LIKE: Leonard Hamilton has stockpiled an impressive array of talent in his two seasons as the Seminoles' coach. In fact, the incoming class of recruits was ranked No. 1 in the country by some services. In a league in which several teams are struggling to find a serviceable point guard, Florida State has a pair in senior Nate Johnson and sophomore Todd Galloway. Tim Pickett, like Johnson a junior college recruit in Hamilton's first class, proved to be an explosive scorer (17.1 ppg) and was named to the ACC's all-defensive team. Newcomers Alexander Johnson and Diego Romero should help give FSU the post presence it has lacked.

WHAT SCARES US: None of these players has won, at least not in a Seminoles uniform. FSU has had five straight losing seasons, and it wasn't exactly on a roll when last season ended, losing seven of its last 10 games. It appears Florida State is more talented and, certainly, deeper this season. However, it might take some time for Hamilton to put the pieces together, and team chemistry could be an issue. No player in the ACC averaged as many field-goal attempts (15) as Pickett, and this season he will have to share the ball with talented freshman wing Von Wafer.

X-FACTOR: Hamilton's ill-fated move to the Washington Wizards obscured the job he did at Miami, where he won 23 games each of his last two seasons (1998-2000) and made the NCAA Tournament his last three seasons. Hamilton has built a reputation as a top recruiter, but Florida State has had recruiters before, most notably Pat Kennedy. If Hamilton can hold his own on the sideline against the likes of Mike Krzyzewski and Gary Williams, the Seminoles might be able to accomplish something in the long run.

Seminole data

Coach: Leonard Hamilton (14-15, 1 year; 214-225 overall, 15 years; NCAA Tournament 3-3).

Assistant coaches: Stan Jones (1 year), Mike Jaskulski (1), Tony Sheals (1).

2002-03 record: 14-15. ACC:

4-12/9th.

Last regular-season title: 1991 (Metro).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Tallahassee, Fla.

Home court: Tallahassee Leon County Civic Center (12,200).

Website: www.seminoles.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
21	G	Benson Callier	6-6/200	So.	1.7	1.4	0.7	31.4	60.0	41.7
4	G	Todd Galloway	5-11/170	So.	6.9	2.1	3.3	42.4	64.2	39.7
2	F	Antonio Griffin	6-6/195	Jr.	Junior college recruit from Madison, Ga.					
32	F	Alexander Johnson	6-10/250	Fr.	Will help fill void left by Trevor Harvey.					
10	G	Nate Johnson*	6-3/180	Sr.	4.8	2.8	2.9	31.8	68.6	35.7
1	F	Michael Joiner*	6-7/215	Sr.	8.5	4.1	1.8	48.5	46.0	38.5
33	F	Mike Matthews	6-10/230	Sr.	2.7	1.2	0.2	50.0	63.3	0.0
22	G	Tim Pickett*	6-4/205	Sr.	17.1	5.7	2.1	38.2	86.5	32.4
54	F	Anthony Richardson*	6-7/190	Jr.	12.4	5.3	1.5	47.0	78.8	29.7
25	F	Diego Romero	6-10/240	Jr.	Junior college recruit from Argentina.					
	F	Al Thornton	6-7/200	Fr.	Redshirted, entered school in December.					
23	G	Von Wafer	6-5/210	Fr.	McDonald's All-American from Louisiana.					
51	F	Adam Waleskowski	6-8/230	Jr.	4.1	3.0	0.9	41.4	76.9	28.6
20	G	Andrew Wilson	6-6/205	Jr.	7.8	3.6	1.2	29.5	75.0	16.7

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
C	Trevor Harvey*	6-11/230	8.4	5.1	0.4	83.2	57.6	0.0

Schedule

N21 Maine	D14 at Miami	J18 at Virginia	F10 at N.C. State
N26 Nicholls State	D16-22 Pittsburgh Invit.	J22 North Carolina	F14 Clemson
N28 S.C. State	D28 Maryland	J25 Wake Forest	F17 Virginia
D1 Northwestern	D30 at Stetson	J29 at Duke	F21 at North Carolina
D3 Mississippi	J3 at Florida	F1 Savannah State	F25 at Wake Forest
D6 Fairleigh Dickinson	J11 N.C. State	F3 Georgia Tech	F29 Duke
	J13 at Clemson	F8 at Maryland	M6 at Georgia Tech

7. Georgia Tech

WHAT WE LIKE: With two of the ACC's most dangerous shooters in B.J. Elder and Marvin Lewis, the Yellow Jackets likely will be more perimeter-oriented this season. Point guard Jarrett Jack eased fears about the departure of Tony Akins by starting 31 games as a freshman and contributing 185 assists. Jack does not have the range or the 3-point inclination of Elder and Lewis, but he averaged nearly 10 points as a freshman and may have more freedom to put it up this season. Will Bynum becomes eligible after transferring from Arizona, where he started nine games as a freshman in 2001-2002, and adds versatility and depth to the backcourt. Another perimeter player, Isma'il Muhammad, may be Georgia Tech's best defensive player.

WHAT SCARES US: Paul Hewitt's team made some noise in the NIT and appeared set for 2003-04 before freshman forward and ACC Rookie of the Year Chris Bosh left for the NBA—he was selected by the Raptors with the fourth overall pick—and 2002 ACC Rookie of the Year Ed Nelson transferred to Connecticut. Hewitt will need more production out of 7-1 Australian Luke Schenscher, who did little in his first two seasons. Hewitt believes 6-9 sophomore Theodis Tarver has promise, but the Yellow Jackets do not have the luxury of developing frontcourt players slowly.

X-FACTOR: Hewitt doesn't believe the Yellow Jackets were out of shape last season, but he felt a lack of strength and stamina contributed to turnovers and missed free throws during a five-game losing streak in February. Elder seemed to run out of gas late in the season and needs to work on conditioning to reach his full potential as an all-around player.

Yellow Jackets data

Coach: Paul Hewitt (48-44, 3 years; 114-71 overall, 6 years; NCAA Tournament 0-2).

Assistant coaches: Willie Reese (4 years) Dean Keener (3), Cliff Warren (3).

2002-03 record: 16-15. ACC: 7-9/5th. Lost to Texas Tech in NIT quarterfinal.

Last regular-season title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Atlanta.

Home court: Alexander Memorial Coliseum at McDonald's Center (9,191).

Website: www.ramblinwreck.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
34	F	Robert Brooks	6-8/220	Sr.	0.7	1.1	0.2	40.0	0.0	—
—	G	Will Bynum	5-11/193	Jr.	Arizona transfer eligible in December.					
1	G	B.J. Elder*	6-4/218	Jr.	15.0	2.6	2.4	46.1	69.1	39.6
3	G	Jarrett Jack*	6-3/198	So.	9.5	3.5	6.0	45.5	70.3	28.3
24	G	Marvin Lewis*	6-4/208	Sr.	12.2	3.5	2.2	41.6	82.2	36.6
55	F	Anthony McHenry	6-7/220	Jr.	2.0	1.3	1.1	31.4	52.6	21.9
2	F	Isma'il Muhammad	6-6/228	Jr.	5.9	3.9	1.2	40.4	50.0	20.0
51	G	David Nelson	5-9/165	So.	0.3	0.1	0.2	33.3	—	50.0
12	C	Luke Schenscher*	7-1/255	Jr.	3.7	3.1	0.3	47.2	52.6	100
44	F	Theodis Tarver	6-9/230	So.	2.8	1.9	0.1	61.3	50.0	—
5	G	Mario West	6-3/215	Fr.	Spent redshirt year honing his offense.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Chris Bosh*	6-10/210	15.6	9.0	1.2	56.0	73.0	47.8
F	David Ewing	6-5/235	0.5	0.4	0.0	50.0	—	—
F	Ed Nelson	6-8/250	8.1	6.5	0.7	40.1	70.5	0.0

Schedule

D23	Marist	J27	Clemson	F25	N.C. State
N18-28	Preseason NIT	D29	Va. Commonwealth	J31	Duke
D23	at Cornell	F3	at Florida State	M3	at Duke
D3	at Ohio State	J11	at North Carolina	M6	Florida State
D6	Tennessee State	J15	Virginia	F10	North Carolina
D13	Saint Louis	J17	Maryland	F14	at Virginia
D17	Alabama A&M	J20	at Wake Forest	F19	at Maryland
D21	St. John's	J24	at N.C. State	F22	Wake Forest

8. Virginia

WHAT WE LIKE: There is a lot of experience, despite losing Nick Vander Laan, including a duo of fifth-year seniors, Todd Billet and Majestic Mapp. In Billet and junior Devin Smith, the Cavaliers have outside shooting threats who combined for 158 3-pointers last season—more than any other ACC duo. Billet led the ACC in 3-point shooting percentage and made 86.0 percent of his free throws. A touted recruiting class will provide a pair of natural scorers in wing Gary Forbes and post man Donte Minter. The departure of guards Keith Jenifer and Jermaine Harper should help ease some of last season's headaches off the court.

WHAT SCARES US: The Cavaliers failed to live up to expectations each of the past two seasons, and they rarely play well in February and March. Pete Gillen, who enjoyed considerable success in his previous coaching stops, has not had a major impact at Virginia. Uncertainty remains at the point, where Mapp made a courageous comeback from multiple knee operations but shot 21.4 percent from the field. Billet, barely 6 feet, is point guard-sized but is most effective coming off screens. In the post, the Cavaliers must replace Travis Watson, who led the team in scoring, rebounding, blocked shots and steals.

X-FACTOR: Junior center Elton Brown, who weighed close to 270 at the end of last season, was 255 at midsummer. Consistency has been another problem for him. Brown had 19, 18 and 15 points in three games against Duke, but the third Duke game represented his only double-figure scoring effort in a stretch of six games. Brown wants to be a leader and should have ample opportunity with this group, but it might be more important if he's the team's rebounding leader.

Cavaliers data

Coach: Pete Gillen (86-65, 5 years; 360-193 overall, 18 years; NCAA Tournament 8-9).

Assistant coaches: Walt Fuller (5 years), Rod Jensen (2), Alexis Sherard (1st).

2002-03 record: 16-16. ACC: 6-10/16th.

Lost to St. John's in NIT second round.

Last regular-season title: 1995 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Charlottesville, Va.

Home court: University Hall (8,392).

Website: www.virginiaspports.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
15	G	T.J. Bannister	5-11/173	Fr.	Has good court vision at the point.					
22	G	Todd Billet*	6-0/192	Sr.	13.5	2.2	3.4	40.1	86.0	41.8
43	F/C	Elton Brown*	6-9/255	Jr.	9.6	4.3	0.7	48.6	53.8	30.3
5	F/G	Derrick Byars*	6-7/205	So.	6.5	2.9	0.8	44.3	63.9	37.8
32	F	Jason Cain	6-9/197	Fr.	Passes and runs the floor well.					
12	G	Billy Campbell	6-0/182	So.	1.7	0.4	0.3	55.6	—	40.0
34	F	Jason Clark	6-8/234	Jr.	4.7	2.5	0.5	70.7	65.2	—
23	F/G	Gary Forbes	6-6/201	Fr.	Ranked among the top 50 in his class.					
21	G	Robert Lodge	6-4/200	So.	0.0	0.2	—	0.0	—	—
11	G	Majestic Mapp	6-2/185	Sr.	2.4	1.2	1.7	21.4	75.0	16.7
55	F/C	Donte Minter	6-8/240	Fr.	Scored 29 in a game with a broken wrist.					
2	G	J.R. Reynolds	6-3/190	Fr.	Played at famed Oak Hill Academy.					
33	F	Devin Smith*	6-5/235	Jr.	11.6	4.2	1.3	40.7	72.5	38.6

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Jermaine Harper	6-3/166	3.9	1.4	0.7	38.5	63.6	33.3
G	Keith Jenifer	6-3/155	5.6	3.5	5.5	33.3	55.1	38.5
C	Nick Vander Laan	6-10/255	5.3	4.5	0.7	50.8	54.5	—
F/C	Travis Watson*	6-8/255	14.3	10.4	2.2	52.0	69.1	24.1

Schedule

D19	at Loy. Marymount	J18	Florida State	F14	Georgia Tech
N23	Mount St. Mary's	D22	Coastal Carolina	J20	Clemson
N28	Virginia Tech	D28	at N.C. State	J24	at North Carolina
N30	High Point	D31	Florida A&M	J31	at Wake Forest
D3	Minnesota	J3	Providence	F4	Maryland
D5	at VMI	J11	Duke	F7	N.C. State
D16	James Madison	J15	at Georgia Tech	F11	at Duke

9. Clemson

WHAT WE LIKE: In Oliver Purnell, the Tigers added a head coach with ACC ties who won more than 20 games in each of his last four seasons at Dayton. Purnell, a one-time Maryland assistant, inherited a Flyers program that was down and posted a winning record (15-14) in his second season and the first of five 20-win seasons in his fourth season. Clemson is coming off its first winning season (15-13) in four years and has a pair of veteran post players in senior Chris Hobbs and junior Sharrod Ford. Hobbs is a former all-freshman team selection who might benefit from a fresh start under Purnell. Ford is a diamond in the rough who had six double-figure rebounding games last season. Eight of the top 10 players return from a team that won its first nine games and was 15-8 on February 25.

WHAT SCARES US: Point guard Edward Scott was so impressive last season that he made first-team All-ACC despite the Tigers' eighth-place finish. But he's gone, and backcourt partner Chey Christie, though he was second on the team in assists, is no point guard. Neither is Shawan Robinson, who primarily was a 3-point specialist (28-of-59) as a freshman. Purnell might have to turn over point guard duties to Vernon Hamilton or Jimmy Hudson, freshmen recruited by predecessor Larry Shyatt.

X-FACTOR: Lamar Rice, a forward from Mott Community College in Flint, Mich., will begin his Clemson playing career this fall. Mott went 65-8 in Rice's two seasons and was ranked No. 1 in the junior college ranks in his first season, 2001-2002. Shyatt believed Rice had the opportunity to help the team at shooting guard, small forward or power forward. Rice has the benefit of practicing with the Tigers for three months.

Tigers data

Coach: Oliver Purnell (1st year; 256-191 overall, 15 years; NCAA Tournament 0-3).

Assistant coaches: Ron Bradley (1st), Kevin Nickleberry (1st), Frank Smith (1st).

2002-03 record: 15-13, ACC:

5-11/8th.

Last regular-season title: 1990.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Clemson, S.C.

Home court: Littlejohn Coliseum (10,980).

Website: www.clemsonigers.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
33	F	Akin Akingbala	6-9/220	So.	1.1	1.3	0.2	66.7	40.0	—
4	C	Steve Allen	6-10/230	So.	Played in 2001-02 before redshirting.					
12	F	Olu Babalola*	6-6/255	Jr.	7.6	3.7	1.1	42.3	66.2	33.3
1	F	Julian Betko	6-5/190	So.	1.9	0.8	0.5	37.3	55.6	30.6
14	G	Chey Christie*	6-4/178	Jr.	11.5	2.9	2.1	40.1	69.2	28.7
5	F	Sharrod Ford*	6-9/220	Jr.	7.5	6.8	0.6	56.4	45.8	—
	G	Vernon Hamilton	5-11/190	Fr.	Will have a chance to earn a starting role.					
43	F	Chris Hobbs*	6-7/265	Sr.	6.3	5.5	0.5	50.8	58.1	100.0
	G	Jimmy Hudson	6-4/195	Fr.	Will battle Hamilton for playing time.					
	F	Lamar Rice	6-7/215	Jr.	Junior college transfer adds versatility.					
22	G	Shawan Robinson	6-2/170	So.	4.9	1.2	1.1	45.0	73.3	47.5
11	G	Beau Shay	5-9/165	Sr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Jermel Douglas	6-3/175	0.5	0.3	0.2	23.1	50.0	33.3
C	Ray Henderson	6-8/255	5.4	4.8	0.3	55.1	66.0	—
F	Tomas Nagys	6-10/235	6.6	3.8	0.3	50.0	73.9	23.1
G	Edward Scott*	6-0/190	17.7	3.7	5.8	38.6	73.9	36.7

Schedule

D17	at Cincinnati	J20	at Virginia	F21	Virginia
N21	Gardner-Webb	D20	S.C. State	J25	Maryland
N24	High Point	D22	Radford	J27	at Georgia Tech
N29	Wofford	D30	Boston College	J31	North Carolina
D3	at Purdue	J3	Duke	F8	at Duke
D6	South Carolina	J10	at Wake Forest	F12	Wake Forest
D13	Georgia*	J13	Florida State	F14	at Florida State
D15	E. Tennessee St.	J17	at N.C. State	F18	N.C. State



Maryland's
Gary Williams

TSNNumber O

Final Four teams for the ACC last season, the first time since 1996 the conference didn't have a representative. Only Duke and defending national champion Maryland made it as far as the Sweet 16, but both lost in the regional semifinals. Of course, the ACC has a coach who made the Final Four the past two years—North Carolina's Roy Williams, who made the trip with Kansas.

SCOUTING REPORT

Name: Tim Brando

Position: Sporting News Radio Host

Experience: CBS Sports Studio Host & Play-by-Play Announcer

Height: 6'3 (give or take)

Weight: Doesn't matter

Born: February 27, 1956

High profile celebrity...leader...team player...entertaining...engaging...passionate...credible.witty...opinionated...delivers unique perspective on sports...brings 15 solid years of national television and media experience...hard hitting interviewer with rare combination of tough journalistic integrity and likeability...rises above the competition...takes listener calls...appeals to sports junkies and casual fans nationwide with topics ranging from the serious to the sublime...doesn't shy away from controversy...great personality...this guy gets it...a must listen...a Hall of Fame Talent!

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BIG EAST



Gerry
McNamara

Don't let the door hit you on the way out, Canes and Hokies

Let us pause for a moment to lament the damage that will be done to Big East basketball by the departure of Miami and Virginia Tech for the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Oh, it'll be a short break.

Honestly, taking the Canes and Hokies out of this league is tantamount to pulling that Gunther guy from the cast of *Friends*.

This is a league seeking to win its second consecutive national championship and third in the past six years. Connecticut is a leading contender, and Syracuse would be taken more seriously if it weren't trying for a rare repeat. Big East basketball might be nearing the end of its natural life, but then, so was Beethoven when he premiered the Ninth Symphony.

Let the football folks weep about losing Tech and Miami. Although it certainly will impact the Big East's basketball future, in the strictest sense it will mean no more than having two fewer teams to kick around in the coming years.

Under Leonard Hamilton, Miami had something going. Under Perry Clark, it's going, going ... you get the picture. Virginia Tech still hasn't felt what it's like to be on the inside of Madison Square Garden during the Big East Tournament.

For the rest of the teams Big East, this is the ideal time to take out their frustrations on the defectors. The final league season for Virginia Tech and Miami will not be stellar. The final season with them in the league, however, will be.

League supporters whined a lot last year about being limited to four NCAA Tournament bids, especially after all four teams reached the Sweet 16. That result merely reflected the reality of the league: four really good teams, a bunch more that were pretty good. The Big East got exactly

ROBERT SEALE/TSN

2002-03 team statistics

Offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Syracuse	35	47.5	69.4	34.4	40.7	14.9	8.5	7.1	14.1	79.6
Connecticut	33	46.9	67.7	38.6	42.6	15.2	5.8	7.7	15.4	79.5
Boston College	31	47.0	69.1	34.6	36.0	16.8	6.8	2.8	13.4	79.4
Notre Dame	34	44.6	76.1	36.7	38.3	16.4	7.3	5.6	13.1	79.2
Georgetown	34	43.1	74.3	32.8	39.0	15.5	9.6	6.1	15.8	76.0
Pittsburgh	33	50.6	64.0	36.5	36.5	17.8	8.2	4.1	14.7	74.9
Villanova	31	42.1	71.4	35.0	37.8	13.1	7.4	3.4	16.1	71.8
Providence	32	43.2	77.9	33.3	34.7	14.8	8.8	5.6	14.4	71.4
St. John's	34	40.4	66.8	31.4	37.8	11.5	9.6	4.4	12.8	71.1
Virginia Tech	29	42.4	66.5	35.0	36.8	12.9	7.0	4.3	14.7	70.2
Miami	28	42.5	71.7	33.3	36.3	14.0	9.7	4.3	16.5	69.9
Rutgers	28	39.5	65.7	33.3	36.3	12.5	9.2	5.3	13.6	67.6
Seton Hall	30	43.3	69.3	31.6	36.0	13.2	7.3	3.3	14.9	67.6
West Virginia	29	45.0	64.2	34.2	29.2	15.0	6.4	3.6	13.2	66.8

Defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Pittsburgh	33	39.0	68.9	30.7	29.8	11.4	6.1	3.2	16.1	59.2
Seton Hall	30	42.1	70.3	33.1	34.6	12.4	7.8	4.0	15.5	66.2
Providence	32	41.9	69.3	31.4	35.3	13.4	8.5	3.0	15.6	67.6
Miami	28	43.6	69.2	36.4	34.7	12.4	8.6	4.0	17.8	68.7
St. John's	34	44.7	68.9	34.7	36.2	12.9	6.2	4.9	17.6	68.8
Rutgers	28	43.1	65.7	35.8	38.6	13.1	5.6	4.0	17.4	69.0
Georgetown	34	41.0	67.4	30.3	37.0	12.4	8.4	4.6	17.8	69.4
Syracuse	35	39.0	65.2	30.4	38.1	15.9	6.9	3.2	14.9	69.6
West Virginia	29	44.7	69.1	32.7	38.1	14.6	6.3	2.8	14.3	69.6
Villanova	31	43.2	69.2	37.7	34.1	14.1	7.4	3.9	16.9	70.2
Connecticut	33	37.9	73.1	31.4	37.3	13.5	7.5	4.2	13.1	71.2
Notre Dame	34	41.2	68.7	36.7	38.7	15.2	6.8	4.4	12.8	71.3
Virginia Tech	29	43.4	72.8	35.2	35.6	14.4	6.7	4.9	13.7	73.2
Boston College	31	44.5	72.8	34.5	36.1	15.3	7.0	3.6	14.1	76.4

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
East Division				
Boston College	10	6	19	12
Connecticut	10	6	23	10
Providence	8	8	18	14
Villanova	8	8	15	16
St. John's	7	9	21	13
Miami	4	12	11	17
Virginia Tech	4	12	11	18
West Division				
Syracuse	13	3	30	5
Pittsburgh	13	3	28	5
Seton Hall	10	6	17	13
Notre Dame	10	6	24	10
Georgetown	6	10	19	15
West Virginia	5	11	14	15
Rutgers	4	12	12	16

what it earned. Seton Hall and Boston College, the teams most obviously snubbed, were a collective 13-21 against teams in the top 100 of the Ratings Percentage Index. That's NIT stuff in any league.

But if the Big East gets what it deserves this year, expect six and possibly seven teams to enter the NCAAs. If anyone in the league surprises—West Virginia seems close—the push for bids will grow more intense. For one more year, anyway, the Big East will be glad to have the Hokies and Canes to kick around.

ASCENDING: Providence. The Friars were wracked by injuries last season; their regulars missed a combined 61 games. Guard Abdul Mills missed the entire season, so they never played with a full cast. This team can't be promised full health, but if the Friars come close, they could reach the NCAAs for the second time in four years. Point guard Donnie McGrath might be ready to become a star.

DESCENDING: Georgetown. The Hoyas are sinking so fast there soon will be divers looking for the wreckage at the bottom of the Potomac. Michael Sweetney left to become an NBA lottery pick. Two regular guards transferred. Two assistant coaches sought other positions. The Hoyas have made only one NCAA Tournament appearance in the past six seasons. Despite all that, coach Craig

Esherrick received a contract extension.

PLAYERS ON THE RISE:

1. Hakim Warrick, F, Syracuse. He received an extra dose of motivation when he was cut from the U.S. Pan-American Games team, but he already had plenty. He's replacing superstar Carmelo Anthony as the Orangemen's primary option and will get the chance to play his position. Warrick will lead the team's charge in defending the NCAA championship. His shot and physical strength needed improvement when the offseason began.

2. Andre Barrett, G, Seton Hall. Making the Pan-American team once again demonstrated Barrett can blend into any situation and run his team effectively. With the Pirates' situation improving, there might be less defensive pressure aimed at him and more opportunities to generate offense with his creative talent. Barrett is the stealth point guard candidate on your All-American ballot.

3. Chris Quinn, G, Notre Dame. A summer of weightlifting elevated him from scrawny to brawny, and the opportunity to replace Matt Carroll in the starting lineup makes Quinn one of Notre Dame's pivotal players. He's got to show he can handle full-time minutes without sacrificing productivity as a shooter and passer. **TSN**

E-mail senior writer Mike DeCourcy at decourcy@sportingnews.com.

RANKING THE 2003 RECRUITING CLASSES

By Mike Sullivan, Rivals.com

- 1. Syracuse.** The late addition of Darryl Watkins pushes this class to the top spot.
- 2. Connecticut.** It was a coup to grab Charlie Villanueva after he flirted with turning pro.
- 3. Notre Dame.** Colin Falls is a smooth perimeter player, Omari Isreal rebounds and Russell Carter scores.
- 4. Pittsburgh.** The team added some front-line players who can contribute immediately.
- 5. Providence.** Dwight Brewington and Gerald Brown are quick and can score in transition.
- 6. Rutgers.** Quincy Douby can shoot 3-pointers. Marquis Webb has the size to be a good combo guard.
- 7. Miami.** Guillermo Diaz and Karron Clarke are scorers. Leonard Harden and Anthony King add size.
- 8. Seton Hall.** Grant Billmeier and Mani Messy have to contribute in the low post.
- 9. Boston College.** Steve Hailey, Jared Dudley, Sean Marshall and Devon Evertsen provide needed depth.
- 10. Villanova.** Mike Nardi is a slick passer and Will Sheridan is a rebounder in this two-man class.
- 11. St. John's.** Lamont Hamilton can rebound. Tyler Jones picked the Red Storm over Indiana.
- 12. Georgetown.** Rayshawn Reed has the ability to run the offense and score.
- 13. West Virginia.** Brad Byerson will develop into a player. Franklin Young adds offense.
- 14. Virginia Tech.** This is an unimpressive group. Maybe joining the ACC will help.

Best bets

1. Point guard Chris Thomas will play his final season in a Notre Dame uniform. He'll depart the Irish as one of their greatest players, a worthy successor to Adrian Dantley, Austin Carr, John Shumate and Troy Murphy. Thomas will lead Notre Dame to a third consecutive NCAA Tournament bid. This time, when he places his name on the NBA's early entry list, there'll be no option to return. But the junior will be glad he gave college basketball one more season.

2. At some point in the season, probably a month in, Villanova big man Jason Fraser will figure it out. He'll realize he has \$100 million worth of talent and that polishing that ability requires more time and attention than he previously devoted. And when Fraser gets it, it'll be, "Goodnight, everybody."

3. Benedict Arnold will make his Big East comeback. Once a real force on the Eastern scene, Arnold will return on any number of anti-Virginia Tech signs adorning student sections at the Hokies' Big East road games. Arnold's name will be misspelled on 30 percent of those signs—some on purpose.

Predictions

1. Connecticut*
2. Syracuse*
3. Pittsburgh*
4. Notre Dame*
5. Providence*
6. Villanova*
7. Seton Hall
8. West Virginia

9. Boston College
10. Miami
11. St. John's
12. Georgetown
13. Virginia Tech
14. Rutgers

*NCAA Tournament pick

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Chris Thomas, Notre Dame	6-1	182	Jr.
G	Ben Gordon, Connecticut	6-2	195	Jr.
C	Emeka Okafor, Connecticut	6-10	252	Jr.
F	Craig Smith, Boston College	6-7	265	So.
F	Hakim Warrick, Syracuse	6-8	209	Jr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Andre Barrett, Seton Hall	5-10	172	Sr.
G	Gerry McNamara, Syracuse	6-2	179	So.
G	Julius Page, Pittsburgh	6-3	191	Sr.
F	Torin Francis, Notre Dame	6-10	240	So.
F	Darius Rice, Miami	6-10	222	Sr.

Player spotlight

Player of the year

Emeka Okafor

The problem with trying to predict the future for Okafor is that he keeps exceeding those predictions. He improves so rapidly that, at his present rate, he'll overtake Shaquille O'Neal on March 2, 2004. Okafor was recruited as a short-term project, but he immediately became a top defender and rebounder. He blossomed as an offensive player last fall only months after he'd appeared lost in summer training at the Nike Camp. His enormous growth will slow to a reasonable rate at some point. But who knows when?



Newcomer of the year

Darryll Hill, G, St. John's

If you've got a nickname like Showtime, you've got to use it, right? Hill's show was closed last season while he established academic eligibility, and Marcus Hatten's departure means Hill won't have to share the stage. Not many players could replace Hatten and deliver the same level of one-on-one scoring, but Hill might be good enough to do it.

Most underrated

Jaron Brown, F/G, Pittsburgh

Brown's most ardent fans will tell you he ranked among the league's best players last season, behind only Syracuse's Carmelo Anthony and Boston College's Troy Bell. Brown does everything Pittsburgh asks: rebound, defend and distribute the ball when necessary. With a little help, Brown held Anthony to an average of 14 points and 10-of-25 shooting. He looks more like a Steelers linebacker—a not-particularly-in-shape linebacker—than a Division I swingman. But Brown is the Panthers' indispensable player.

1. Connecticut

WHAT WE LIKE: It's impossible not to be impressed by Emeka Okafor's extraordinary skill and rapid progress. He can dominate games with his defensive presence and continues to improve as an offensive force. One year ago, Okafor wasn't a comfortable offensive player, but he has developed a reliable jump hook and a face-up jumper that's accurate within 14 feet. With his athleticism and strength, he also can power the ball to the goal too fast for the defense to handle. Ben Gordon might be an even better player. He's a terrific shooter who also has the varied off-the-dribble game lacking in many college wings. Gordon is a capable defender as well. Okafor and Gordon are solid, team-first players who aren't easily distracted from the business of winning. The Huskies have depth on the perimeter with Rashad Anderson capable of spelling Gordon or starting at small forward. Taliek Brown has been a periodic starter for three seasons. He has played in big games and, despite his lack of shooting touch, made some big shots. Marcus White made significant progress as a rebounder in the season's final month after barely playing early in the year. Teaming him with Okafor gives the Huskies two dominant rebounders. White offers the best combination of toughness and skill that UConn has had at power forward since Kevin Freeman in 1999. Coincidentally, that was when the Huskies claimed their only national championship. With prep star Charlie Villanueva and long, quick Hilton Armstrong, UConn has enough depth to handle the inside positions, although there still isn't a ton of muscle behind the frontcourt starters.

WHAT SCARES US: Who can be certain Brown is a championship-level point guard? Not the Huskies, who benched him part of last season because of his unpredictability. Though Brown regained his job in the

final month, he only had one big assist game during the postseason. UConn is hoping that a healthier Brown, who was plagued by a wrist injury last season, can follow the direction provided by Okafor and Gordon the same way he listened to Caron Butler as a sophomore. But Butler was older. Brown is the most experienced player among the Huskies, and he has the ball. The only other option aside from Brown is Gordon, who does a nice enough job when asked to play the point. But when he does that, he can't focus on being a great scoring guard. With Gordon and Okafor around as established scorers, Anderson's love of his own shot could be distracting and limiting. When he's hot, it's great for UConn. He took care of Notre Dame on the road with a stunning 3-point shooting streak. After that, he closed the season 12-of-36 from long range. Anderson had 24 assists in 489 minutes, fewer than one per game. Okafor must do a better job of avoiding foul trouble. He reached four fouls in five of nine March games and was plagued by a similar stretch in January. That not only affects his minutes but also his ability to assert himself defensively and as a shot blocker.

X-FACTOR: Villanueva, who originally committed to Illinois and then declared for the NBA draft before reconsidering, wasn't a highly motivated player before he signed up to be a Husky. He also isn't enamored with the physical demands that accompany playing power forward. It's up to Jim Calhoun to change that. He's one of the NCAA's best coaches and figures to have a positive influence in these departments. But he can't instantly cure every crisis. Villanueva has remarkable shooting and ballhandling skills for a player his size and could cause severe mismatches for the opposition. To make that matter, though, he has to get down and dirty and do some inside work. Villanueva should be able to handle some minutes on the wing, but a steady diet there would dull the Huskies' man-to-man defense, which has been an important component of their most successful teams.



Ben Gordon

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Schedule

N17-28 Preseason NIT
N22 Sacred Heart
D1 Lehigh
D6 Army
D13 Quinnipiac
D20 Iona
D28 Ball State*
D30 Massachusetts
J2 at Rice
J6 at Rutgers
J11 Oklahoma
J14 Georgetown
J17 at North Carolina
J19 Pittsburgh
J24 Providence
J28 at Virginia Tech
J31 at Boston College
F2 Syracuse
F7 West Virginia
F9 at Notre Dame
F15 at Pittsburgh
F18 Miami
F21 Notre Dame
F24 at St. John's
F28 at Villanova
M1 Seton Hall
M7 at Syracuse
*at Hartford, Conn.

A Big East coach says: They've got depth, great coaching. They've got a senior point guard in Taliek Brown, and Benny Gordon will probably be a lottery pick. Emeka Okafor could be No. 1 in next year's draft. The only thing that could hurt them a little is maybe they've got too many players. But Jim Calhoun is smart enough to figure that out. Taliek's going to be fine. He understands that if he doesn't do what the coaching staff asks, he will wind up like Tony Robertson in a secondary role. A lot of coaches say Charlie Villanueva is going to screw it up for them. That's not going to happen.

Huskies data

Coach: Jim Calhoun (399-159, 17 years; 647-296 overall, 31 years; NCAA Tournament 29-14; won NCAA title in 1999).

Assistant coaches: Tom Moore (9 years), George Blaney (2), Clyde Vaughan (1).

2002-03 record: 23-10. Big East East: 10-6/T1st. Lost to Texas in

NCAA South semifinal.

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.

Site: Storrs, Conn.

Home court: Gampel Pavilion (10,027) or Hartford Civic Center (16,294).

Website: www.uconnhuskies.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
31	G/F	Rashad Anderson	6-5/210	So.	8.2	1.3	0.8	40.1	77.5	39.3
11	F/C	Hilton Armstrong*	6-10/210	So.	2.8	2.8	0.7	54.5	50.0	—
21	F/C	Josh Boone	6-10/230	Fr.	More advanced defensively right now.					
33	F	Denham Brown*	6-5/205	So.	7.7	3.4	1.1	45.2	58.5	41.7
12	G	Taliek Brown*	6-1/200	Sr.	7.7	3.0	4.8	44.0	56.0	5.9
4	G	Ben Gordon*	6-2/195	Jr.	19.5	4.2	4.7	44.3	80.8	41.9
50	F/C	Emeka Okafor*	6-10/252	Jr.	15.9	11.2	0.6	58.0	59.9	—
13	F	Ryan Thompson	6-6/215	Jr.	JC transfer will vie for time at small forward.					
30	G/F	Shamon Tooles	6-5/225	Sr.	1.9	2.4	0.4	48.8	73.9	—
3	F	Charlie Villanueva	6-10/220	Fr.	McDonald's All-American provides depth.					
23	F	Marcus White	6-8/215	So.	4.1	5.6	0.4	37.8	67.2	—
5	G	Marcus Williams	6-2/190	Fr.	Played at Oak Hill Academy last season.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
C	Justin Brown	7-0/252	1.0	1.3	0.0	43.5	50.0	—
F	Mike Hayes	6-8/236	2.4	3.1	0.2	51.7	40.0	—
G	Tony Robertson	6-2/200	9.8	3.2	1.8	45.6	81.7	40.3

2. Syracuse

WHAT WE LIKE: One of the best things about this team's defense of its national championship is it won't be attempting to recapture last year's magic. The departure of Carmelo Anthony after one year on campus ensures this will be a much different team, even with six of the eight major contributors still in place. Nearly everyone will have a new role, if not a new position. Lanky Hakim Warrick might switch to small forward. If he doesn't, he'll still become the first frontcourt option following a year of complementing Anthony. After functioning as a reserve, Billy Edelin will become the primary playmaker, sharing the backcourt and point guard duties with Gerry McNamara. All three will be expected to significantly increase their point production. It's a great advantage to have dual point guards, as the one closest to the rebounder can accept an outlet and generate a break. McNamara is dangerous on pick-and-rolls. Edelin creates opportunities with penetration. The post rotation of Craig Forth and Jeremy McNeil was solid last season and could be better with the additional year of maturity. Plus, they've got five more fouls behind them with freshman Darryl Watkins available to take over in emergencies. He's just part of a recruiting class that makes this edition of the Orangemen as deep as any in memory, as fellow freshmen Terrence Roberts, Demetris Nichols and Louie McCroskey all have the ability to contribute. The vaunted 2-3 zone that has confused and confounded many opponents may not have the advantage of Anthony's length, but the veteran players now have extensive experience playing and winning big games with it.

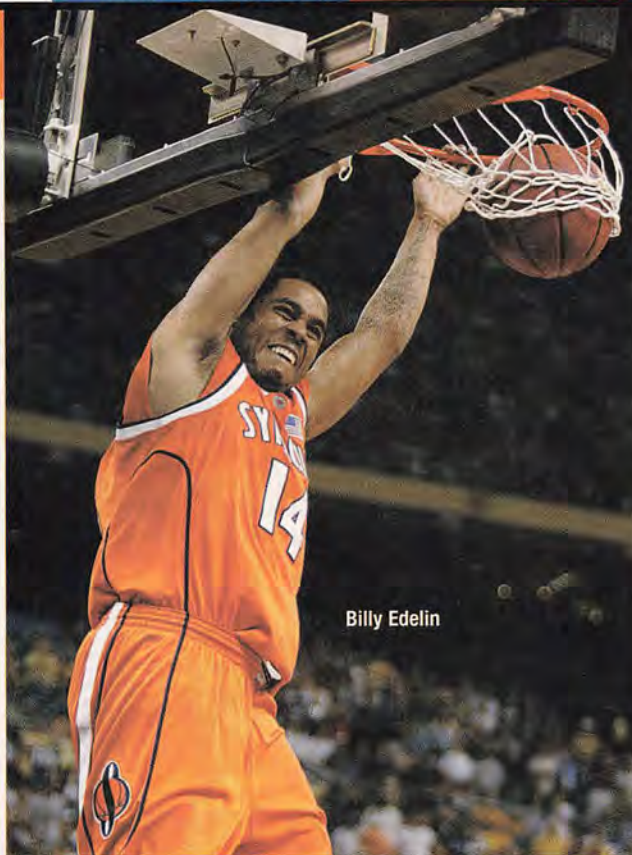
WHAT SCARES US: So much of what worked for Syracuse flowed from Anthony—and from

opponents' fears of what he could generate. The Orangemen no longer have such a versatile threat, even if Warrick blossoms. And what if he doesn't? He wouldn't be the first significant talent who was more comfortable as a role player. Warrick will have to curl off screens and make midrange jumpers. Because he isn't overly skilled with the ball, he might not react well to double-teams. If Syracuse successfully converts Warrick to a wing spot, it'll be somewhat limited as a 3-point shooting team. McNamara is a great shooter, but last year's team also got long-range shots from Anthony, the third-overall pick in the NBA draft, and Kueth Duany, who exhausted his eligibility. The next long-distance option after McNamara could be Nichols. Teams have had a summer to dissect the zone. They've had that every year for the last dozen or so, but the zone changes personality as the players change. With so many veterans still around, however, opposing coaches may have been able to pick up tendencies that can help them attack. Even with a veteran team last year, leadership was an issue. Last season's squad was able to excel without experienced leaders. That's because Anthony worked hard and was devoted to the team. His talent won't be all that will be missed. This team will have the same advantage Maryland did last season—no one really expects a repeat—but it also will have to deal with the sense of satisfaction that goes with already owning a ring.

X-FACTOR: Roberts might have been the most glaring omission from last year's McDonald's All-America team. Having been coached by the great Bob Hurley Sr., Roberts was executing proper defense on pick-and-roll plays during Syracuse's summer pickup games. The zone should come quickly to him. He's dangerous in the high post and ought to be a productive rebounder. Roberts is promising enough that Syracuse would like to open with him at power forward. If that works and Warrick is comfortable at small forward, Syracuse will employ an even more athletic front line than last year's group. That's not a pleasant prospect for opponents hoping to locate open shots now and then.

Schedule

N26	Charlotte
N30	Rhode Island
D3	at St. Bonaventure
D13	Binghamton
D17	Manhattan
D20	Siena
D22	Colgate
D28	UNC Asheville
D30	Canisius
J3	Michigan State
J7	St. John's
J10	Boston College
J12	at Missouri
J17	at Notre Dame
J20	at Seton Hall
J24	Pittsburgh
J31	Virginia Tech
F2	at Connecticut
F7	at Providence
F10	Rutgers
F14	at Miami
F16	Notre Dame
F21	at Georgetown
F23	Villanova
F29	at Pittsburgh
M2	at West Virginia
M7	Connecticut



Billy Edelin

ROBERT SCALE / TSN

A Big East coach says: Divvying up the minutes, points and shots that Carmelo Anthony left is going to be tough. They had the best of both worlds in him—he was a great player and he was a leader. They've got enough good players to be strong again. Hakim Warrick could definitely break through, but who knows what his temperament is like? He's a mismatch for most players—he also shoots it decent. If they're going to play McNamara and Edelin together they've got the best of both worlds. McNamara is better than people realize. He's a playmaker rather than just a shooter.

Orangemen data

Coach: Jim Boeheim (653-226, 27 years; NCAA Tournament 38-21; won NCAA title in 2003).

Assistant coaches: Bernie Fine (27 years), Mike Hopkins (8), Troy Weaver (3).

2002-03 record: 30-5. Big East West: 13-3/T1st. Beat Kansas in

NCAA final.

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Syracuse, N.Y.

Home court: Carrier Dome (33,000).

Website: www.suathletics.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
14	G	Billy Edelin	6-4/204	So.	9.0	3.4	2.5	54.8	67.6	0.0
51	C	Craig Forth*	7-0/259	Jr.	3.8	3.3	0.9	48.7	50.0	0.0
24	F	Matt Gorman	6-9/240	So.	2.3	2.1	0.1	34.8	62.5	0.0
11	G	Ronnel Herron	5-11/158	Sr.	1.2	1.0	0.0	66.7	66.7	0.0
10	G	Andrew Kouwe	6-0/170	Sr.	1.7	0.3	0.3	60.0	100.0	100.0
42	G	Louie McCroskey	6-5/187	Fr.	Has a chance to contribute in backcourt.					
3	G	Gerry McNamara*	6-2/179	So.	13.3	2.3	4.4	40.1	90.9	35.7
34	F	Jeremy McNeil	6-8/255	Sr.	3.3	4.2	0.2	66.7	45.0	0.0
4	F	Demetris Nichols	6-8/190	Fr.	Rhode Island player of the year.					
5	G	Josh Pace	6-5/195	Fr.	4.3	2.7	1.9	52.5	56.0	0.0
33	F	Terrence Roberts	6-9/215	Fr.	Will help fill void left by Anthony, Duany.					
1	F	Hakim Warrick*	6-8/209	Jr.	14.8	8.5	1.6	54.1	66.7	0.0
13	F	Darryl Watkins	6-11/235	Fr.	Averaged six blocks as a high school senior.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Carmelo Anthony*	6-8/220	22.2	10.0	2.2	45.3	70.6	33.7
G	Kueth Duany*	6-6/185	11.0	3.7	2.0	43.9	67.5	35.0

3. Pittsburgh

WHAT WE LIKE: Although there are six new players, the guys they join have won consistently over two seasons and expect to be good. No team has a tougher pair of wings than Jaron Brown and Julius Page. They're the soul of two Big East regular-season champions. They can defend anyone else's two wings, at least now that Dwyane Wade is safely off to the NBA. Brown's unselfishness convinces others to keep the ball flowing through the offense. Page is the team's best deep threat. Point guard Carl Krauser might not

have quite the same head for the game as Brandin Knight, but he's a better penetrator and will be able to generate more opportunities when league opponents take away primary options. In late-clock situations last season, Pittsburgh too often was stuck with a Knight 3-pointer. When he wasn't on, it hurt. Power forward Chevon Troutman is among the most efficient players, rarely forcing a shot he can't finish and slick enough with the ball to keep the turnovers down. This team is taller than its predecessors, with 6-10 center Toree Morris certain to play a greater role and two freshmen who stand at least 6-10, Aaron Gray and Chris Taft, available to rotate through the big positions. Taft is the glamour recruit, but Gray could play as significant a role if he picks up the system quickly. That's especially important in Pittsburgh's operation; the other players are so polished, they won't be able to wait long for the freshmen to arrive. This has become a difficult team to beat at home; the Panthers boast a 22-game winning streak at the Petersen Events Center. How good have things been for Pittsburgh? The team's 83.8 (57-11) winning percentage over the past two years ties for the second-best in the nation.

WHAT SCARES US: The guy who took over when Ben Howland went off to UCLA—his assistant, Jamie Dixon—plans to keep the same system in place and has

many of the same players to operate it. But there's no way to know if the Panthers will respond in the same manner. Dixon has to command the same level of respect from a group of players who pushed for him to get the job. They're mature enough that they probably won't act as if Dixon owes them, but the possibility exists. Even if they respond properly, the change from Knight to Krauser might alter the chemistry so that it no longer works well enough. Losing Knight also creates a void in leadership. Someone has to step up and take charge, especially during critical junctures in tight games and when adversity strikes. This still isn't a team of superior talent. The Panthers have good players but no great ones who can overcome challenges on their own. Krauser might make the Panthers less dependent on their system, but they'll have to succeed collectively. They still aren't a great long-range shooting team. They shoot a high percentage from the field because they create opportunities with their passing, but a team that locks up the lane might force the Panthers to fire more deep shots than they'd prefer. And with Knight and power forward Donatas Zavackas gone, the passing skill that cut through defenses in the past might be diminished. There's no real backup for Krauser. Pittsburgh will use Page there, and he has practiced enough at the point to have an idea how to run things, but great on-ball defenders should be able to bother him.

X-FACTOR: Krauser is a true New York City point guard. He learned to get to the lane before he learned to shoot, but he can be a 3-point shooting threat if he keeps his confidence high. Krauser won't be the threat coming off screens that Knight was, but he'll get chances because defenders play off of him to avoid getting beaten by the dribble. Krauser will be able to produce drive-and-kick opportunities for Page and others, something that previously wasn't a big part of Pitt's approach. Krauser is extremely competitive and wants to win, but he can be volatile. The Panthers need him to play with composure.

Schedule

N14	Alabama*
N22	St. Francis (Pa.)
N26	Robert Morris
N28	Albany
D3	at Duquesne
D6	Penn State
D13	Youngstown State
D15-20	Pittsburgh Invit.
D27	New Hampshire
D30	Georgia
J3	William & Mary
J6	Virginia Tech
J10	at Miami
J12	Notre Dame
J17	Rutgers
J19	at Connecticut
J24	at Syracuse
J28	Boston College
F4	St. John's
F7	at Notre Dame
F9	at Seton Hall
F15	Connecticut
F21	at West Virginia
F24	at Georgetown
F29	Syracuse
M2	at Providence
M6	Villanova
*at New York	



Julius Page

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

A Big East coach says: I think Jamie Dixon is going to do a sensational job. He's got a great temperament. He's probably more of the new-wave coach, where players like him and players want to play for him. People don't realize Brandin Knight was a great defender. Everybody talks about how good Carl Krauser is, but Knight was a competitor and a defender. Will Krauser be able to do that? Chemistry is going to be a question mark. Their outside shooting was suspect, and it's going to be worse. I'd play zone. You want to limit Chevy Troutman's touches. His shooting numbers are ridiculous.

Panthers data

Coach: Jamie Dixon (1st year).
Assistant coaches: Barry Rohrsen (4 years), Pat Sandle (1st), Joe Lombardi (1st).
2002-03 record: 28-5. Big East West: 13-3/T1st. Lost to Marquette in NCAA Midwest semifinal.

Last regular-season title: 2003 (tie, West Division).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.

Site: Pittsburgh.

Home court: John M. and Gertrude E. Petersen Events Center (12,500).

Website: www.pittsburghpanthers.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
24	G	Marcus Bowman	6-3/180	Fr.	Redshirted in 2002-03.					
4	G	Jaron Brown*	6-4/229	Sr.	10.7	5.0	1.9	52.8	67.9	35.7
3	G	Yuri Demetrius	6-4/205	Jr.	2.1	0.7	0.4	43.3	69.2	35.3
0	G	Carlo Dorazio	6-0/173	Sr.	0.6	0.1	0.2	50.0	50.0	50.0
23	G	Gino Federico	6-5/215	Sr.	0.4	0.2	0.2	100.0	—	—
	G	Antonio Graves	6-3/180	Fr.	Combo guard was late addition.					
	C	Aaron Gray	7-0/280	Fr.	Powerful with good hands; inside scorer.					
14	F	Levon Kendall	6-9/220	Fr.	Redshirted in 2002-03.					
11	G	Carl Krauser	6-2/200	So.	6.0	2.8	2.9	44.1	72.9	38.9
3	C	Mark McCarroll	6-11/220	Jr.	1.5	1.8	0.3	31.0	40.0	72.7
	F	Dante Milligan	6-8/200	Fr.	Sweet shooter is a touted prospect.					
55	C	Toree Morris	6-10/282	Sr.	3.5	2.7	0.2	55.4	41.8	0.0
1	G	Julius Page*	6-3/191	Sr.	12.2	3.4	2.2	48.8	70.0	37.0
22	G	Charles Small	5-7/170	Fr.	Redshirted in 2002-03.					
	F	Chris Taft	6-10/230	Fr.	Gifted passer with a terrific inside game.					
2	F	Chevon Troutman	6-7/236	Jr.	11.0	5.1	1.0	71.8	60.3	16.7
12	F	Ed Turner	6-6/190	Fr.	Redshirted in 2002-03.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Brandin Knight*	6-0/183	11.2	3.5	6.3	36.7	57.5	30.8
C	Ontario Lett*	6-6/265	9.7	4.9	1.2	60.8	58.4	0.0
F	Donatas Zavackas*	6-8/238	10.1	4.5	1.9	48.4	80.9	44.3

4. Notre Dame

WHAT WE LIKE: The most important ingredient in potential Irish success was secured when star junior point guard Chris Thomas removed himself from the NBA draft. He worked out for several teams but was convinced by scouts he would be better served by concentrating on becoming a more effective, thoughtful leader. That's about all that's missing from Thomas' package of attributes. He's quick, elusive and energetic. Of Division I's many top-grade point guards, he might be the most dangerous long-range shooter. Last year, he nailed 38.5

Schedule

N24	Northern Illinois
N29	Mount St. Mary's
D1	at Marquette
D6	Central Michigan
D10	Indiana
D14	at DePaul
D21	American University
D23	Quinnipiac
D28	Morehead State
J7	West Virginia
J10	at Villanova
J12	at Pittsburgh
J17	Syracuse
J21	at Virginia Tech
J25	Kentucky
J28	Miami
J31	at Rutgers
F4	at Boston College
F7	Pittsburgh
F9	Connecticut
F14	Seton Hall
F16	at Syracuse
F21	at Connecticut
F24	Providence
F28	at UCLA
M3	Georgetown
M6	at St. John's

percent of his 3-point attempts. Having Thomas in place prevents a crisis at the wing positions. Sophomore Chris Quinn will play alongside Thomas. He would have run the attack if Thomas stayed in the draft, but there wouldn't have been much of an attack to run. As it is, swingman Torrian Jones is more of a defender than an offensive threat. But with Quinn and Thomas sharing the backcourt, Notre Dame has two quick guards who can initiate the offense, strike from long range and generate a fast break. The attention they demand could make Jones more dangerous on drives. The enhanced speed allows the Irish to employ more defensive schemes that cover all or most of the court. There's good depth along the front line. Torin Francis might be the second-best center in the Big East, but he also could be second best in the nation. He's an amazing rebounder and sturdy defender. His ball skills still are developing, but he could make huge progress there because he'll go from the team's fourth option to an integral part of the offense. Most halfcourt sets now will include Francis getting touches. He'll also be used more often in the high post, which will allow the Irish to slide him over to set ball screens for pick-and-pop plays. Junior forward Jordan

Cornette is a solid presence on the boards who has some offensive moves that pose matchup problems for the opposition.

WHAT SCARES US: For a Sweet 16 team, the Irish were pretty crummy defensively. They were sluggish along the perimeter, and Thomas applied almost no ball pressure. They had to outscore opponents to win. They'll be much quicker this year, but Quinn is undersized for a shooting guard and could be vulnerable against bigger, stronger players. Coach Mike Brey will mix the matchups when necessary to minimize that concern. But it's still a concern. Losing Dan Miller and Matt Carroll means it won't be as easy to bury opponents with long-range jumpers. At times last season, Notre Dame used a combination with four long-range shooters. There probably aren't four on this roster. Jones has been a solid role player throughout his career, but he's got to find some way to contribute to the offense. That's especially true with the power forward position having been so stagnant. Cornette has the skills to play on the perimeter and force opposing big men away from the basket, but they're not going to be overly concerned if he doesn't start playing with greater aggressiveness and confidence. Nearly all this team's depth is inexperienced. Other than backup center Tom Timmermans, who is solid, the Irish will depend on freshmen who weren't highly ranked recruits, wings Colin Falls and Russell Carter, or players who were glued to the bench last season, Rick Cornett and redshirt Omari Peterkin.

X-FACTOR: Plenty of teams would love to have a player such as Quinn in charge of the offense. He'll play slightly out of position for Notre Dame, but he can't be shy when it comes to doing what a shooting guard does: shoot. His presence in the lineup allows Notre Dame to start its attack from either direction on the court and to use Thomas coming off screens and staggers, making full use of his deadly jump shot. Quinn isn't as electric when he penetrates as Thomas, but Quinn is clever and knows how to exploit seams in the defense and find teammates after the defense begins to react. It's better to have two point guards than none. This will be one of the nation's best backcourts.



Chris Thomas

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

A Big East coach says: Any time you have one of the best point guards, you're going to be good. Chris Thomas is great. They also have one of the best big men in Torin Francis. But I'm not sure he's a go-to guy in the post, especially because they don't have the same outside game. Them being in the top 25 is suspect. They don't have anyone else who can score. Chris Quinn is a pretty good outside shooter. But he's only 6-1 at the two spot. I can't imagine them being successful in an uptempo game. Sometimes all you need is a good point guard and a good big guy. Maybe they'll figure it out.

Irish data

Coach: Mike Brey (66-31, 3 years; 165-83 overall, 8 years; NCAA Tournament 4-5).

Assistant coaches: Sean Kearney (3 years), Lewis Preston (3), Rod Balanis (3), Martin Ingelsby (1st).

2002-03 record: 24-10. Big East West: 10-6/T3rd. Lost to Arizona in

NCAA West semifinal.

Last regular-season title: 2001 (West Division).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: South Bend, Ind.

Home court: Joyce Center (11,418).

Website: www.und.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
43	G/F	Russell Carter	6-3/200	Fr.	Will have trouble getting minutes.					
11	F	Rick Cornett	6-8/244	So.	2.1	0.9	0.1	58.8	71.4	—
12	F	Jordan Cornette*	6-9/235	Jr.	3.0	4.2	1.0	45.7	56.5	31.6
15	F	Colin Falls	6-4/200	Fr.	Cut from same mold as Matt Carroll.					
34	C	Torin Francis*	6-10/240	So.	11.1	8.4	1.0	50.0	68.5	100.0
5	F	Omari Isreal	6-8/220	Fr.	May sit out as he rehabs a knee.					
20	G/F	Torrian Jones	6-4/195	Sr.	4.9	3.3	1.3	51.8	67.2	27.8
41	F	Dennis Latimore	6-8/240	Jr.	Transfer from Arizona.					
4	F/C	Omari Peterkin	6-8/260	So.	Sat out last season to develop.					
2	G	Chris Quinn	6-2/178	So.	3.9	1.6	1.5	47.8	80.0	43.9
1	G	Chris Thomas*	6-1/182	Jr.	18.7	4.0	6.9	40.3	87.1	38.5
50	C	Tom Timmermans	6-11/253	Sr.	3.2	2.7	0.7	48.8	72.4	33.3

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Matt Carroll*	6-6/212	19.5	5.0	1.6	44.1	84.4	40.7
F	Dan Miller*	6-8/223	13.9	5.7	2.4	43.5	71.9	35.5

5. Providence

WHAT WE LIKE: There's no deeper or more experienced team in the Big East. The Friars return 99 percent of the scoring from last season's NIT team. To that they add shooting guard Abdul Mills, who averaged 14.5 points as a junior but missed last season because of a hip injury. Because point guard Donnie McGrath has matured after a solid freshman year, he should better understand the importance of taking advantage of the team's primary options. In addition to Mills, that means getting the ball more to forward/center Ryan Gomes, who shot 53.7 percent last season and widely is respected for his competitiveness.

WHAT SCARES US: Somebody has to make shots. And who might it be? Maybe Mills, but he never has shot better than 35.5 percent from 3-point range. McGrath probably will need to be the full-time playmaker, which means Sheiku Kabba will back up at both backcourt positions. Can Kabba be happy with that after starting 16 games and averaging better than 26 minutes? Providence must decide what to do with forward Maris Laksa, whose long-range shooting skill hasn't been enough to counteract his ineffectiveness as a defender and rebounder. Keeping guys like him in the rotation has hurt the team on the boards. This isn't a big team. The frontcourt must be aggressive.

X-FACTOR: Center Marcus Douthit blocked 97 shots last season in only 21 minutes per game. That works out to about 4.5 per game if he played full time. So why doesn't he? He hasn't pursued the ball well as a rebounder, and his suspect hands gum up the offense. For a guy who wasn't an offensive target, 69 turnovers is dreadful. If he played solidly in the post, many of the Friars' problems would be solved.

Friars data

Coach: Tim Welsh (81-73, 5 years; 151-95 overall, 8 years; NCAA Tournament 0-2).

Assistant coaches: Steve DeMeo (5 years), Bob Walsh (5), Phil Seymore (3).

2002-03 record: 18-14. Big East East.

8-8/T3rd. Lost to Georgetown in NIT second round.

Last regular-season title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Providence, R.I.

Home court: Dunkin' Donuts Center (12,993).

Website: www.friars.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
20	F	Chris Anrin	6-7/220	Sr.	2.9	0.7	1.4	32.3	66.7	25.0
24	G	Dwight Brewington	6-5/195	Fr.	Backcourt player who has post skills.					
5	G	Gerald Brown	6-4/190	Fr.	Can penetrate, dunk or shoot the 3.					
4	C	Marcus Douthit*	6-10/235	Sr.	5.1	4.6	1.5	39.3	73.0	0.0
3	F/C	Ryan Gomes*	6-7/245	Jr.	18.4	9.7	2.1	53.7	84.0	0.0
32	F	Herbert Hill	6-9/220	Fr.	Redshirted last year; adds frontcourt depth.					
13	G	Sheiku Kabba*	6-3/200	Sr.	10.0	2.7	2.4	38.9	82.4	32.7
25	F	Tuukka Kotti*	6-9/220	Jr.	7.7	3.6	1.6	44.7	70.8	33.3
22	F	Maris Laksa	6-9/230	Sr.	8.5	2.4	1.2	40.0	84.1	38.9
1	G	Donnie McGrath*	6-4/190	So.	9.1	2.1	4.3	35.6	82.1	32.6
11	G	Abdul Mills	6-4/195	Sr.	Team's top '01-02 scorer back from injury.					
21	F	Jeff Farmer	6-7/225	Fr.	Had 21 rebounds in a game twice in '03.					
33	F	Rob Sanders	6-6/215	Jr.	7.4	3.8	0.7	54.8	64.2	0.0

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Romuald Augustin	6-7/205	6.9	2.7	0.8	39.4	84.4	39.2
G	Kareem Hayletts	6-0/165	0.7	0.5	0.7	33.3	57.1	33.3

Schedule

N22	Hofstra	D21	Central Conn.	J17	West Virginia	F11	at Villanova
N25	Albany	D23	at Richmond	J21	Villanova	F14	at Boston College
N29	Alabama	D28	Siena	J24	at Connecticut	F21	Miami
D2	South Florida	J3	at Virginia	J26	Georgetown	F24	at Notre Dame
D6	at Rhode Island	J5	Texas	F1	Seton Hall	F29	at St. John's
D9	Brown	J10	at Rutgers	F4	at Virginia Tech	M2	Pittsburgh
		J12	at Seton Hall	F7	Syracuse	M6	Boston College

6. Villanova

WHAT WE LIKE: It was natural Villanova would try to make Curtis Sumpter a perimeter player, but he found his true home when shifted to power forward. He's quick enough to cause matchup problems and tenacious enough to work inside, but he doesn't own the skills to make him a big-time wing. Center Jason Fraser figured to take time to mature. He took a little more than expected but still was productive as a rebounder. He should block more shots, but he became reticent after stumbling into early-season foul trouble. Guards Randy Foye and Allan Ray should be more judicious about shooting. If you're going to have one senior, it helps if he is a point guard, as is Derrick Snowden.

WHAT SCARES US: Without Gary Buchanan, Villanova has no one who is a real 3-point threat. Snowden shoots a nice percentage, but that's because he's selective. Though three players (Foye, Ray, Snowden) can run the offense, no one has separated himself, and there's an occasional lack of role definition on the perimeter. The phone card scandal that spoiled the close of last season wasn't finished with its damage last March. Several players are suspended for the start of the season, including Sumpter and Snowden, who both will miss the first three games. Forward Marcus Austin will miss eight games, forward Andreas Bloch five games and forward/center Chris Charles three games. It will impact the team's ability to develop early.

X-FACTOR: It'd be nice for Villanova if Fraser figured out he has a chance to make big money playing this game. He has many other interests and, though he cares about winning, doesn't always prepare himself to be great. Fraser isn't gifted with the ball, but Emeka Okafor had even less when he arrived at UConn. Fraser, if he wants it, can be that good. Maybe better.

Wildcats data

Coach: Jay Wright (34-29, 2 years; 156-114 overall, 9 years; NCAA Tournament 0-2).

Assistant coaches: Brett Gunning (2 years), Fred Hill Jr. (2), Ed Pinckney (1st).

2002-03 record: 15-16. Big East East.

8-8/T3rd. Lost to Siena in NIT first round.

Last regular-season title: 1997 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Philadelphia.

Home court: First Union Center Pavilion (6,500).

Website: www.villanova.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
44	F	Marcus Austin	6-9/231	Jr.	2.1	1.9	0.4	33.9	63.2	—
1	F	Andreas Bloch	6-8/215	Sr.	0.9	0.5	0.1	21.7	50.0	13.3
21	F/C	Chris Charles	7-0/220	So.	Redshirted to build strength.					
5	G	Michael Claxton	6-0/200	So.	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	50.0	0.0
13	G	Baker Dunleavy	6-6/205	Fr.	Needs to add strength to be effective.					
15	G	Randy Foye*	6-3/185	So.	10.3	3.5	2.9	36.2	83.1	30.2
20	C	Jason Fraser*	6-10/225	So.	7.1	6.3	0.9	51.5	62.7	0.0
12	G	Mike Nardi	6-0/175	Fr.	Natural point guard who can shoot.					
14	G	Allan Ray	6-2/175	So.	9.9	2.5	1.5	37.0	76.1	29.9
50	F	Will Sheridan	6-9/240	Fr.	Solid all-around player adds depth.					
3	G	Derrick Snowden*	6-0/160	Sr.	8.6	2.6	3.5	44.1	64.6	43.2
34	F	Curtis Sumpter	6-7/205	So.	6.2	4.1	0.4	43.3	72.0	23.7

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Gary Buchanan*	6-3/196	15.4	3.3	1.7	42.6	83.6	40.9
F	Andrew Sullivan	6-7/205	5.1	4.6	1.6	43.5	58.0	28.6
F	Ricky Wright*	6-7/225	12.5	7.8	0.8	52.0	75.3	100.0

Schedule

N21	at Temple	D22	Columbia	J25	at Miami	F18	Virginia Tech
N22	at Redlands	D28	UNC Greensboro	J28	Rutgers	F21	at Seton Hall
N24-26	Maui Invitational	J6	Memphis	J31	West Virginia	F23	at Syracuse
D6	La Salle	J10	Notre Dame	F2	Saint Joseph's	F28	Connecticut
D9	at Penn	J14	at Boston College	F5	at Georgetown	M2	Miami
		J18	St. John's	F11	Providence	M6	at Pittsburgh
D12	Northeastern	J21	at Providence	F14	at West Virginia		

7. Seton Hall

WHAT WE LIKE: If Andre Barrett's career had been constructed with better teams, he would be viewed universally as one of the game's elite point guards. He has an assist-to-turnover ratio of nearly 2-to-1 and a career scoring average of 14.6. He's exceptionally creative and can make his teammates better. That was clear last season, when he helped the Pirates overcome their lack of size and offensive proficiency to win 10 Big East games. Small forward John Allen is a fine athlete who needs to shoot better. Freshman center Grant Billmeier isn't a sure thing, but he's big and has skill. If he can perform well enough to stay in games, he could take pressure off solid forward/center Kelly Whitney and undersized power forward Andre Sweet.

WHAT SCARES US: The Pirates might achieve some success with scrappy play, but they won't improve unless they shoot better. Teams could play zone and take away Barrett's penetration without fear of being hurt from the outside. The Pirates were too easy to defend in any alignment. With only a limited post presence, Seton Hall hit just 31.6 percent from long range and averaged 67.6 points. The fact the Pirates won as many games as they did with those numbers reflects well on the team's character.

X-FACTOR: With such a small team, there was a lot of physical pressure on Sweet when he came off the bench. He handled it well. If the Pirates can play with a bigger lineup, though, he could become even more dangerous. Sweet is a difficult matchup because he's quicker than most players at his position and emphasizes energy over muscle. Last season was his first activity in a while after playing little at Duke and then sitting out 2001-02 as a transfer. The rust should be completely gone by now.

Pirates data

Coach: Louis Orr (29-31, 2 years; 49-42 overall, 3 years).

Assistant coaches: Brian Nash (2 years), William Garrett (2), John Dunne (2).

2002-03 record: 17-13. Big East West: 10-6/T3rd. Lost to Rhode Island in NIT

first round.

Last regular-season title: 1993.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: South Orange, N.J.

Home court: Continental Airlines Arena (20,029).

Website: www.shupirates.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
32	F	John Allen*	6-5/205	Jr.	13.9	5.1	2.7	41.5	68.3	26.6
12	G	Andre Barrett*	5-10/172	Sr.	16.7	3.8	5.3	43.3	83.6	36.8
41	C	Grant Billmeier	6-10/246	Fr.	Has good skills and fills a need for size.					
15	G	Jerel Cokley	6-2/180	Sr.	—	—	0.5	—	—	—
10	G	Donald Copeland	5-10/150	So.	2.2	0.8	0.7	33.3	50.0	28.3
31	F	Eric Davis	6-9/225	So.	0.6	1.4	0.2	15.4	75.0	—
23	F	Damion Fray	6-8/236	Sr.	1.2	1.5	0.1	46.4	100.0	—
22	C	Alex Gambino	7-1/245	So.	0.5	1.0	0.1	16.7	50.0	—
21	F	Mani Messy	6-7/218	Fr.	Versatile; can play either forward spot.					
4	F	J.R. Morris	6-5/190	So.	4.0	1.5	0.5	33.6	81.8	33.3
2	G	Jamar Nutter	6-2/195	Fr.	N.J. prep star decided to play close to home.					
33	F	Andre Sweet	6-6/210	Jr.	8.1	4.5	0.9	46.2	71.3	29.0
13	F	Marcus Toney-El*	6-6/206	So.	6.7	5.8	1.6	41.9	63.2	25.0
1	F/C	Kelly Whitney*	6-8/228	So.	11.0	6.1	0.7	52.8	54.8	—

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Greg Morton*	6-7/209	3.7	2.9	0.6	46.4	73.1	35.0

Schedule

D27	DePaul	J24	Virginia Tech	F21	Villanova
N22	Morgan State	D30	Monmouth	F1	at Providence
N26-29	Gr. Alaska Shoot*	J3	at La Salle	F4	at West Virginia
D10	at Louisville	J10	at St. John's	F7	Rutgers
D13	St. Peter's	J12	Providence	F9	Pittsburgh
D20	Ohio State	J17	at Boston College	F14	at Notre Dame
D22	Davidson	J20	Syracuse	F16	Boston College

*at Anchorage

8. West Virginia

WHAT WE LIKE: That coach John Beilein turned shooting guard Drew Schifino into a reliable member of a functional team might be worthy of a place in the hall of fame. Schifino improved his shooting to the point that his one-on-one ability was more dangerous to opponents than to his team. Power forward Kevin Pittsnogle is the model of the modern outside shooting big man, but he was stuck between roles last season because the team had little size. With the arrival of center D'or Fischer, a shot blocker who transferred from Northwestern State, Pittsnogle will have plenty of freedom to roam on offense. Increased familiarity with Beilein's system should translate into improved play.

WHAT SCARES US: Pittsnogle and Fischer are the only players taller than 6-7. The Mountaineers regularly were crushed on the boards last season, and though the disadvantage might diminish, it's likely to continue. The team played together, but it still was ineffective defensively because it surrendered offensive rebounds and failed to generate ball pressure. Point guard Johannes Herber tried not to foul up the operation, but he doesn't bring much juice to the attack. West Virginia might rely heavily on freshman Tyler Relph. Although Fischer will provide a greater interior presence on defense, he isn't an offensive target.

X-FACTOR: Pittsnogle's experience with the Junior National team might return him to the Mountaineers with more confidence. He has been doubted throughout his career, but hitting 40.0 percent from 3-point range with the Junior National team and helping the U.S. in several games might put an end to that. If Pittsnogle adds another half-dozen points and three rebounds to his totals, West Virginia could challenge for a post-season berth.

Mountaineers data

Coach: John Beilein (14-15, 1 year; 203-130 overall, 11 years; NCAA

Tournament 1-3).

Assistant coaches: Matt Brown (1), Jeff Neubauer (1), Jerry Dunn (1st).

2002-03 record: 14-15. Big East West:

5-11/6th.

Last regular-season title: 1989 (Atlantic 10).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Morgantown, W.Va.

Home court: WVU Coliseum (14,000).

Website: www.msnsportsnet.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
3	G	Patrick Beilein	6-4/195	So.	5.5	1.7	1.2	34.1	76.2	34.3
2	F	Brad Byerson	6-7/220	Fr.	Averaged double figures as a H.S. senior.					
32	F	Jonathan Curran	6-5/195	Sr.	0.3	0.3	0.3	16.7	0.0	20.0
1	G	J. Duisseau-Collins*	5-10/190	So.	2.3	2.3	2.3	31.6	46.2	20.0
40	C	D'or Fischer	6-11/220	Jr.	Height helps Northwestern State transfer.					
5	G	Johannes Herber*	6-6/205	So.	7.2	3.9	3.8	40.9	57.7	38.0
55	G	Nick Patella	6-0/190	So.	1.4	0.5	1.0	33.3	83.3	30.0
34	F	Kevin Pittsnogle*	6-10/225	So.	11.6	4.8	1.1	49.8	70.0	47.6
11	G	Duriel Price	6-2/175	Jr.	0.9	0.3	—	40.0	100.0	0.0
10	G	Tyler Relph	6-0/165	Fr.	New York's Mr. Basketball.					
4	F	Tyrene Sally*	6-7/195	Jr.	8.3	4.6	2.1	44.0	61.5	29.4
15	G	Drew Schifino*	6-3/200	Jr.	20.1	4.7	2.3	45.2	66.9	30.1
12	F	Franklin Young	6-5/200	Fr.	Floridian who has big potential.					
21	F	Jerrah Young	6-7/205	Fr.	Third-team Class AA Illinois all-stat player.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
C	Chaz Briggs	6-7/210	5.7	3.7	0.6	75.0	53.1	0.0
F	Josh Yeager	6-8/195	4.8	1.2	0.7	43.7	66.7	29.4

Schedule

D20	Florida	J21	Marshall	F14	Villanova
N24	at James Madison	D28	IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	J24	Boston College
N29	Northeastern	D30	Howard	J28	at St. John's
D2	Saint Louis	J7	at Notre Dame	J31	at Villanova
D6-7	BB&T Classic*	J10	Georgetown	F4	Seton Hall
D13	Duquesne	J14	Virginia Tech	F7	at Connecticut
D17	IUPUI	J17	at Providence	F11	St. John's

*at Washington, D.C.

9. Boston College

WHAT WE LIKE: Craig Smith helps you win. He wrecks defenses from the inside out, plays major minutes, consumes space and rebounds his fair share. He is the heart of an effective and now versatile frontcourt. Uka Agbai returns from injury and that allows coach Al Skinner to play Agbai and Smith together in a muscle-oriented alignment. Or Skinner could go even bigger and work Nate Doornekamp into the rotation to deal with big opponents. (It would be nice, though, if Doornekamp were a better shot blocker.) Skinner tends to get more from less. With so many defections—Ryan Sidney, Andrew Bryant, recruit Dan Coleman—this roster has plenty of “less.”

WHAT SCARES US: The team will miss Troy Bell, the No. 1 option and the guy who decided what options to use. And Sidney, one of the team's most important players, left the program in August. His loss is devastating because he contributed in so many areas: rebounding, scoring, passing. The Eagles will have to find another long-range threat, with Bryant removed from the team over academic issues. They were counting on him to draw defenses away from Smith. Now, it will be easier for defenders to double-team in the post and clog the lane. The Eagles' defense hasn't been very good since the sting went out of the press.

X-FACTOR: The Eagles must find a functional point guard among three candidates, starting with Louis Hinnant. He's big and could be a physically punishing lead guard. Jermaine Watson did not live up to a big reputation last season. Steve Hailey has a nice feel and shoots well, but he's unproven. Bell was not a strong defender, and if any of the three is more committed to setting up teammates, the offense will improve in that area.

Eagles data

Coach: Al Skinner (98-84, 6 years; 236-211 overall, 15 years; NCAA Tournament 2-4).

Assistant coaches: Bill Coen (6 years), Ed Cooley (6), Pat Duquette (6).

2002-03 record: 19-12. Big East East: 10-6/T1st. Lost to Temple in

NIT first round.

Last regular-season title: 2003 (tie, East Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Chesnut Hill, Mass.

Home court: Silvio O. Conte Forum (8,606).

Website: www.bceagles.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
00	F	Uka Agbai	6-8/262	Jr.	3.3	4.0	1.0	37.1	52.4	50.0
13	C	Nate Doornekamp*	7-0/263	Jr.	3.3	4.0	1.0	37.1	52.4	50.0
	F	Jared Dudley	6-7/215	Fr.	Late recruit is described as late bloomer.					
	G/F	Devon Evertsen	6-6/200	Fr.	Will have chance to play right away.					
	G	Steve Hailey	5-11/165	Fr.	Will compete for minutes at point guard.					
11	G	Louis Hinnant*	6-4/190	So.	4.7	2.2	3.2	47.7	63.0	31.8
31	G	Tavio Hobson	6-0/185	So.	0.0	0.0	0.3	—	—	—
33	G	Johnnie Jackson	6-6/190	So.	1.2	0.6	0.2	50.0	50.0	66.7
	G/F	Sean Marshall	6-5/205	Fr.	Led high school to first section title ever.					
1	F	Craig Smith*	6-7/265	So.	19.9	7.9	1.3	60.3	68.0	20.0
4	G	Jermaine Watson	6-3/198	Jr.	5.1	2.5	1.9	41.9	60.3	23.8

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Troy Bell*	6-1/181	25.2	4.6	3.7	44.1	84.7	40.2
F	Andrew Bryant	6-7/232	7.1	3.2	0.8	42.1	60.7	37.7
G	Ryan Sidney*	6-2/205	12.4	6.9	4.6	44.8	46.5	14.3

Schedule

D14	Sacred Heart	J14	Villanova	F11	at Miami
N22	Appalachian St.*	D20	Kent State	J17	Seton Hall
N23	Monmouth*	D23	Stony Brook	J20	N.C. State
N29	Boston University	D30	at Clemson	J24	at West Virginia
D2	Holy Cross	J3	St. Bonaventure	J28	at Pittsburgh
D6	Massachusetts	J6	at Georgetown	J31	Connecticut
D9	at Saint Joseph's	J10	at Syracuse	F4	Notre Dame
				F8	at St. John's
					*at St. Thomas, Virgin Island

10. Miami

WHAT WE LIKE: Four years after he spoke openly about entering the NBA out of high school, small forward Darius Rice still is here. He wasn't the caliber of prospect some suggested, but he's a productive scorer who makes big shots. With Rice joined by shooting guard Robert Hite and freshmen Guillermo Diaz and Karron Clarke, this could be the most athletic team Perry Clark has coached since his “Posse” squad at Tulane. With so much speed on the wings, Clark's pressure defense could work better. Hite improved as last season advanced and can handle minutes at both guard spots, though he's better suited to the wing. Forward/center Gary Hamilton can rebound.

WHAT SCARES US: The one obstacle between Rice and stardom is being more consistent with his 3-point shooting. The team has never provided great point guard play to set him up or a post presence to draw attention inside. Too often he has to generate his own opportunities. That's unlikely to change. Experience should make point guard Armondo Surratt better, but he's not a significant talent. The departure of power forward James Jones should allow defenses to pay even more attention on Rice. There are few reliable veterans up front to handle defense and rebounding. Junior college recruit Leonard Harden needs to contribute.

X-FACTOR: Despite being left two (and possibly three) NBA-level players by former coach Leonard Hamilton, Clark has led Miami to one NCAA Tournament berth in three seasons. With the Hurricanes about to enter the ACC, Miami might be in the mood to change coaches should Clark put up a second straight losing record. He can be a resilient guy, though. And never underestimate Clark's ability to get guys to play hard.

Hurricanes data

Coach: Perry Clark (51-38, 3 years; 236-183 overall, 14 years; NCAA Tournament 3-4).

Assistant coaches: Gregory Gary (3 years), Brock Kantrow (3), Dwight Freeman (1st), Kurtis Townsend (1st).

2002-03 record: 11-17. Big East East: 4-12/T6th.

Last regular-season title: 2000 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Coral Gables, Fla.

Home court: Miami Arena (15,388) or Convocation Center (7,000).

Website: www.hurricanesports.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
1	F	Karron Clarke	6-6/197	Fr.	Led Brooklyn team to NYC public school title.					
13	G	Guillermo Diaz	6-2/178	Fr.	Also an excellent volleyball player.					
14	F	Rodrigue Djahue	6-7/268	Sr.	3.0	2.4	0.1	44.8	56.6	—
34	F	William Frisby	6-8/241	Jr.	Redshirted in 2002-03.					
2	F/C	Gary Hamilton	6-9/245	So.	3.1	5.0	0.9	44.6	37.0	0.0
52	F/C	Leonard Harden	6-9/260	So.	Was one of top-ranked centers in JC ball.					
12	G	Anthony Harris	6-2/168	Fr.	Versatile lead guard who can score.					
40	G	Robert Hite*	6-2/186	So.	7.3	3.6	1.4	39.6	85.4	32.3
50	F/C	Anthony King	6-9/247	Fr.	Banger will provide depth on front line.					
21	F	Darius Rice*	6-10/222	Sr.	18.7	5.8	1.2	42.6	76.7	36.4
3	G	Armondo Surratt*	5-11/168	So.	6.5	2.0	3.3	41.8	55.6	20.4
11	G	Eric Wilkins	6-4/194	So.	4.4	2.0	1.4	44.3	62.8	18.2
Key losses										
Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%		
F/C	Rafael Berumen	6-9/255	3.3	1.8	0.6	59.3	65.0	—		
G	Paulo Coelho	6-2/188	4.7	1.3	1.3	38.3	74.1	35.7		
F	James Jones*	6-8/225	16.9	6.0	1.8	44.7	83.1	40.0		
G	Michael Simmons*	6-1/198	2.5	1.6	2.3	32.9	76.9	27.3		

Schedule

D22	North Carolina A&T	J17	at Virginia Tech	F11	Boston College
N21-26	Las Vegas Inv.	D27	Florida Atlantic	J21	Rutgers
D2	Stetson	D30	IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	J25	Villanova
D6	Fla. International	J3	Savannah State	J28	at Notre Dame
D9	Md.-Baltimore Co.	J7	at North Carolina	J31	Georgetown
D14	Florida State	J10	Pittsburgh	F4	at Rutgers
D20	Temple	J14	at St. John's	F7	at Georgetown
					F14 Syracuse
					F18 at Connecticut
					F21 at Providence
					F24 Seton Hall
					M2 at Villanova
					M6 West Virginia

11. St. John's

WHAT WE LIKE: The Red Storm should have an even more effective guard duo than it did last season. Why? Because as successful as Marcus Hatten was as a scorer, putting the ball in the hands of true point guard Elijah Ingram more often should make the offense more consistent. Ingram has a better feel for offensive structure than Hatten did. The quandary is that shooting guard Darryll "Showtime" Hill also needs to have the ball in his hands as much as possible. He'll excel as a replacement for Hatten, but the team needs to be under Ingram's control. The frontcourt at least is big enough to provide physical protection for what will be a smallish backcourt. Small forward Grady Reynolds successfully navigated the justice system and remained on the team.

WHAT SCARES US: No one who plays in the post is much of a rebounder or scorer. The Red Storm could get away with playing a solid guy such as power forward Kyle Cuffe if his partner were outstanding, but that's hardly the case. The three veterans listed as centers—Mohamed Diakite, Abe Keita and Curtis Johnson—averaged a combined 4.1 points in their most recent seasons. If Ingram is going to shoot such a low percentage, he should be doing it more often on drives. He was way too busy last season chucking 3-pointers. The notion that he will improve is a reach.

X-FACTOR: Shooting guard Willie Shaw still can rescue what has been a disappointing career. As a freshman, he averaged 13.8 points and shot 37.6 percent with pass-first Omar Cook running the attack. Shaw was knocked out of the lineup by Hatten's arrival, and Shaw's minutes and production have declined. Getting so little out of someone who once was a solid double-figures scorer seems a waste.

Red Storm data

Coach: Mike Jarvis (108-57, 5 years; 361-198 overall, 18 years; NCAA Tournament 7-9).

Assistant coaches: Kevin Clark (5 years), Mike Jarvis Jr. (5), Dermon Player (2).

2002-03 record: 21-13. Big East East:

7-9/5th. Beat Georgetown in NIT championship game.

Last regular-season title: 1992 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Jamaica, N.Y.

Home court: Alumni Hall (6,008) or Madison Square Garden (19,876).

Website: www.redstormsports.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
25	F	Kyle Cuffe*	6-7/243	Sr.	7.6	5.4	0.8	39.0	60.7	28.6
44	C	Mohamed Diakite	6-11/210	Sr.	Missed '02-03 season after back surgery.					
34	F	Lamont Hamilton	6-9/225	Fr.	Reputedly a strong inside player.					
3	G	Darryll Hill	5-10/170	So.	Cousin of NBA player Lamar Odom.					
15	G	Anthony Ighodaro	6-7/210	Jr.	Good shooter, ballhandler and passer.					
12	G	Elijah Ingram*	5-11/166	So.	10.5	2.5	2.6	37.5	73.6	36.1
52	C	Curtis Johnson	7-2/332	Sr.	0.2	0.7	0.0	25.0	14.3	—
11	F	Tyler Jones	6-9/220	Fr.	Averaged 17.0 ppg, 11.6 rpg as a H.S. senior.					
4	C	Abe Keita	6-9/222	Sr.	1.8	2.1	0.1	55.3	50.0	—
33	F	Grady Reynolds*	6-6/209	Sr.	4.8	5.0	0.3	37.0	61.8	0.0
23	G	Willie Shaw	6-5/190	Sr.	8.3	2.6	1.0	37.0	75.0	35.9
14	G	Andre Stanley	6-3/204	Sr.	1.5	2.1	1.9	29.4	50.0	0.0

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Anthony Glover*	6-5/231	10.3	5.6	0.8	45.7	69.4	23.5
G	Marcus Hatten*	6-1/165	22.2	5.6	4.1	42.4	73.0	30.3

Schedule

N14 Marquette*	D21 at Georgia Tech	J20 at Georgetown	F18 Georgetown
N24 Fairfield	D28-29 Holiday Fest.	J24 at Rutgers	F21 at Virginia Tech
N29 at Stony Brook	J3 Niagara	J28 West Virginia	F24 Connecticut
D2 Hofstra	J7 at Syracuse	J31 UCLA	F29 Providence
D6 at Duke	J10 Seton Hall	F4 at Pittsburgh	M3 at Boston College
D9 St. Francis (N.Y.)	J14 Miami	F8 Boston College	M6 Notre Dame
	J18 at Villanova	F11 at West Virginia	*at New York

12. Georgetown

WHAT WE LIKE: The Hoyas' most capable player is Gerald Riley, who'll be asked to carry an offense that no longer has the inside presence of Mike Sweetney, a lottery pick by the Knicks. Ashanti Cook is OK at running things and shot 37.5 percent from long range. But his assists-to-turnover ratio was under water—even though Sweetney was around to catch his freshman-year passes. Brandon Bowman has talent and battles, though he doesn't shoot well. Prospects who entered Georgetown with similar promise in recent years—Courtland Freeman and Victor Samnick—made little progress. Bowman knew enough about the desperation here to ponder leaving.

WHAT SCARES US: Even with Sweetney helping to generate a combined 220 assists for departed guards Tony Bethel and Drew Hall—they abandoned this sinking program following their sophomore seasons—the Hoyas operated a stagnant offense. Take out Sweetney's numbers, and the Hoyas shot below 40.0 percent as a team. Unless the offense is redesigned, they'll struggle to break 70 points most games. And the same attack has been in place for generations, only it previously functioned with much better players. Georgetown's defense still has a little sting along the perimeter but now will be undersized in the frontcourt.

X-FACTOR: Freshman Matt Causey probably isn't the sort of recruit who can rescue a program. But the opportunity will be there. With so few talented players, it's unlikely he'll supplant Cook as the starter at point guard, but the two often could share the backcourt. Causey is a promising shooter and playmaker and could be valuable off the ball in the same way as Richard Midgley frequently was for California last season.

Hoyas data

Coach: Craig Esherick (90-59, 4 years; NCAA Tournament 2-1).

Assistant coaches: Mike Riley (19 years), Jaren Jackson (1st).

2002-03 record: 19-15. Big East West: 6-10/5th. Lost to St. John's in NIT championship game.

Last regular-season title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Washington, D.C.

Home court: McDonough Arena (2,500) or MCI Center (20,600).

Website: www.guhoyas.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
1	F	Brandon Bowman*	6-8/190	So.	7.6	4.5	1.5	38.3	74.0	18.2
	G	Matt Causey	5-11/171	Fr.	Floor general is most-touted recruit.					
21	G	Ashanti Cook	6-2/165	So.	5.0	1.4	1.2	40.4	69.6	37.5
	F	Sead Dizdarevic	6-8/221	Fr.	Averaged 22.0 ppg, 14 rpg as a H.S. senior.					
2	F	Courtland Freeman	6-9/222	Sr.	2.4	2.3	0.7	29.5	61.5	0.0
44	F/C	A. Kilkenny-Drew	6-8/220	Fr.	Redshirted last year to develop.					
20	F/G	Darrel Owens	6-6/210	Jr.	2.5	2.1	1.3	41.3	77.1	11.1
	G	Rayshawn Reed	6-0/163	Fr.	Athletic ability to play either guard spot.					
32	G	Gerald Riley*	6-6/215	Sr.	14.1	3.1	1.9	42.2	84.3	41.5
10	G/F	RaMell Ross	6-5/185	Sr.	1.2	0.6	0.1	25.0	100.0	12.5

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Tony Bethel*	6-2/165	10.8	3.3	3.6	39.3	80.4	34.8
G	Drew Hall*	6-1/175	3.5	2.1	2.9	31.6	84.3	26.3
F	Victor Samnick	6-8/208	5.4	4.0	0.7	43.0	56.1	0.0
F	Mike Sweetney*	6-8/260	22.8	10.4	1.9	54.7	73.8	0.0
C	Wesley Wilson	6-10/235	6.6	4.9	0.4	46.9	57.1	0.0

Schedule

N21 Grambling	D13 Elon	J20 St. John's	F14 at Temple
N23 at Penn State	D20 Howard	J24 Duke	F18 at St. John's
N25 Coastal Carolina	D22 at The Citadel	J26 at Providence	F21 Syracuse
N29 Delaware State	J3 Rutgers	J31 at Miami	F24 Pittsburgh
D3 Norfolk State	J6 Boston College	F5 Villanova	F28 at Seton Hall
D6 Davidson	J10 at West Virginia	F7 Miami	M3 at Notre Dame
	J14 at Connecticut	F11 at Virginia Tech	M6 Virginia Tech

13. Virginia Tech

WHAT WE LIKE: At least the Hokies will have a new direction, as they head to the ACC after this season. And maybe they're headed up with the hiring of new coach Seth Greenberg. His emphasis on toughness and defensive execution wasn't a perfect blend with area recruits who filled his South Florida rosters, but it might work better here. Swingman Bryant Matthews and shooting guard Carlos Dixon give the team a legitimate set of wings. Neither is great from long range, and the lack of scoring threats to complement them leaves both shooting substandard percentages. There's hope freshman big man Coleman Collins can contribute.

WHAT SCARES US: Greenberg will consider moving Matthews to power forward. It's a little risky to fool with the one thing that worked consistently, and it also would make the team smaller. The move might work great, and now is as good a time as any to experiment. The Hokies are going to have to fake it up front. They'll struggle to guard the post because of their lack of size. It will be impossible to throw the ball to the post and expect a defensive reaction. And who would throw it there, anyway? This team might feature the weakest point guard play in the league. Maybe freshman Zabian Dowdell can help.

X-FACTOR: Virginia Tech has been the giveaway game for Big East opponents. Season-ticket holders would give their seats to friends or co-workers when the Hokies came to town. Now, as the result of its departure to the ACC after promising to stay in the Big East and suing the ACC, Virginia Tech figures to rank among the league's most hated teams. The Hokies went 1-7 on the road in the Big East last season, losing by an average of 17 points. Trying to get a road win this time might be even tougher.

Hokies data

Coach: Seth Greenberg (1st year; 213-170 overall, 13 years; NCAA Tournament 0-2).

Assistant coaches: Brad Greenberg (1st year), Ryan Odom (1st), Eric Skeeters (1st).

2002-03 record: 11-18. Big East East:

4-12/T6th.

Last regular-season title: 1979 (Metro).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Blacksburg, Va.

Home court: Cassell Coliseum (10,000).

Website: www.hokiesports.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
21	C/F	Allen Calloway	6-9/210	So.	1.8	2.1	0.4	47.5	66.7	—
33	C/F	Coleman Collins	6-8/215	Fr.	Smart player who has great upside.					
4	F/G	Fabian Davis	6-6/210	So.	2.0	1.1	0.5	37.2	66.7	17.6
32	G/F	Carlos Dixon*	6-7/195	Sr.	13.8	3.3	2.5	38.5	70.0	35.6
1	G	Zabian Dowdell	6-2/190	Fr.	Point guard can penetrate, pass.					
2	G	Jamon Gordon	6-3/190	Fr.	Great athlete who plays hard.					
23	G	Shawn Harris	6-4/215	So.	3.4	1.3	0.4	36.0	59.1	31.8
22	G/F	Bryant Matthews*	6-7/210	Sr.	17.3	7.1	2.2	41.6	58.8	33.1
25	F/C	Philip McCandies	6-9/225	So.	3.1	3.0	0.4	55.6	75.0	33.3
24	G	Markus Sailes	6-5/200	So.	1.9	0.5	0.7	52.4	71.4	75.0
34	F/C	Dimari Thompkins*	6-9/235	Jr.	5.4	4.4	1.9	36.5	71.1	28.6

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Eric Branham	6-0/178	3.1	1.7	1.6	35.9	79.3	40.0
G	Brian Chase*	5-10/167	7.1	2.4	2.3	37.8	76.7	37.2
C	Terry Taylor*	6-8/292	15.0	7.0	0.8	52.9	69.2	0.0

Schedule

N22 New Hampshire	D10 VMI	J17 Miami	F15 at Rutgers
N25 Western Carolina	D13 Radford	J21 Notre Dame	F18 at Villanova
N28 at Virginia	D20 at Towson	J24 at Seton Hall	F21 St. John's
D1 Morgan State	D23 William & Mary	J28 Connecticut	F25 at Boston College
D4 Old Dominion	D27 East Carolina	J31 at Syracuse	F28 West Virginia
D6 at Ohio State	J6 at Pittsburgh	F4 Providence	M3 Rutgers
	J14 at West Virginia	F11 Georgetown	M6 at Georgetown

14. Rutgers

WHAT WE LIKE: Power forward Herve Lamizana always has seemed to be on the verge of excellence—so athletic, so quick off his feet, so threatening as a long-range shooter. He's also a terrific shot blocker. His sluggish progress has been partly because of his limited exposure to the college game. With guard Jerome Coleman gone, Lamizana could flourish as a focus of the attack. Shooting guard Ricky Shields has enjoyed two solid seasons, improving dramatically as a 3-point shooter. He has the athleticism to defend at a high level and provides a reliability that's uncommon on this roster. Coach Gary Waters is a solid tactician who builds strong defenses that keep the Knights competitive.

WHAT SCARES US: There wasn't a lot of ability when Waters arrived, and the level has gradually dipped since. Of the newcomers, only shooting guard Marquis Webb is a prime Big East prospect. Big guard Quincy Douby is a shooter. This team loses big games, but it's not a mystery why. The Knights still are without a true point guard. Lamizana has big bodies to keep him company in the frontcourt, but they do little to ease his load. Sean Axani tries hard and doesn't attempt anything that's beyond his talents. Adrian Hill has promise, as does freshman center Byron Joynes, but the Scarlet Knights need something more than possibility in order to compete in a rapidly improving league.

X-FACTOR: The playmaking crisis grew more intense when recruit Antwi Atuahene, a native of Toronto who might have been good enough to win the starting point guard job, opted not to enroll. For a team that shot under 40 percent and averaged 12.5 assists, that's horrendous news. Finding someone to convert into the point guard role is the first priority.

Scarlet Knights data

Coach: Gary Waters (30-29, 2 years; 122-89 overall, 7 years; NCAA Tournament 1-2).

Assistant coaches: Garland Mance (2 years), Kevin Heck (2), Larry DeSimpelare (2).

2002-03 record: 12-16. Big East West:

4-12/7th.

Last regular-season title: 1991 (Atlantic 10).

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: New Brunswick, N.J.

Home court: Brown Athletic Center (8,500).

Website: www.scarletknights.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
32	F	Sean Axani*	6-8/235	Sr.	4.2	3.8	0.6	46.3	44.7	—
5	G	Quincy Douby	6-3/175	Fr.	Outstanding scorer from St. Thomas More.					
4	F	Adrian Hill	6-8/225	So.	3.2	2.4	0.2	46.3	50.0	—
21	C	Byron Joynes	6-9/280	Fr.	Big body from Oak Hill will bang.					
1	F	Herve Lamizana*	6-10/215	Sr.	10.6	6.4	2.0	42.9	65.1	37.2
23	F	Justin Piasecki	6-8/225	Sr.	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
2	G	Ricky Shields*	6-4/185	Jr.	11.9	4.0	2.0	39.8	81.1	39.3
11	G	Marquis Webb	6-4/195	Fr.	First Jersey product to sign with Waters.					
13	G	Juel Wiggan	6-3/185	Jr.	4.4	2.8	0.8	36.8	73.5	18.2
44	G	Calvin Wooten	6-1/180	So.	6.0	1.6	1.0	39.6	75.0	36.6

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Jerome Coleman*	6-2/190	16.0	3.6	1.8	35.0	74.3	29.5
F	Jason McCoy	6-9/195	1.1	1.1	0.4	30.8	36.4	33.3
G	Mike Sherrod*	6-2/180	4.7	3.6	3.4	35.9	50.0	22.2

Schedule

N22 Lafayette	D13 Princeton	J21 at Miami	F15 Virginia Tech
N25 Buffalo	D20 LIU	J24 St. John's	F22 at Boston College
N29 at Wisconsin	D27-28 SunClassic*	J28 at Villanova	F25 West Virginia
D3 Temple	J3 at Georgetown	J31 Notre Dame	M3 at Virginia Tech
D6 Monmouth	J6 Connecticut	F4 Miami (Fla.)	M7 Seton Hall
D10 at Penn State	J10 Providence	F7 at Seton Hall	*at El Paso, Texas
	J17 at Pittsburgh	F10 at Syracuse	

BIG TEN

Paul Davis



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

2002-03 team statistics

Offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Illinois	32	47.9	72.5	36.6	35.4	18.0	7.1	3.1	13.1	74.6
Minnesota	34	43.8	70.2	35.7	36.3	15.6	6.9	5.8	14.6	73.6
Purdue	30	43.7	75.2	33.6	33.8	12.0	7.2	2.8	13.8	71.9
Wisconsin	32	46.3	73.2	35.7	32.7	13.2	6.9	2.8	10.4	70.3
Indiana	34	42.6	71.8	34.9	36.3	13.8	4.3	5.1	11.5	69.9
Iowa	31	45.0	71.6	29.0	36.0	14.4	6.7	4.1	15.2	69.1
Michigan	30	43.3	74.0	31.7	34.6	12.2	5.5	3.5	14.1	69.0
Michigan State	35	45.2	73.5	37.5	35.0	13.5	6.2	3.5	14.3	67.6
Ohio State	32	41.0	70.9	34.4	34.4	11.5	5.3	1.9	13.8	64.2
Penn State	28	40.1	73.6	32.8	31.8	11.4	5.9	3.8	15.9	63.1
Northwestern	29	42.9	69.8	31.5	29.7	14.8	6.9	2.8	12.9	62.6

Defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Wisconsin	32	43.2	72.0	33.4	30.1	11.1	4.7	2.6	13.8	59.3
Michigan State	35	40.3	71.7	33.2	29.5	11.1	6.4	3.4	14.0	61.2
Illinois	32	37.7	70.8	30.9	32.6	11.0	5.7	2.6	14.7	61.6
Ohio State	32	41.4	72.7	33.5	32.1	13.2	5.8	3.4	13.4	64.7
Purdue	30	41.2	72.5	31.9	34.3	12.6	5.4	3.6	16.3	65.3
Northwestern	29	44.8	65.7	34.1	34.9	13.8	7.1	3.0	13.4	65.7
Iowa	31	42.2	68.2	32.1	32.8	14.5	7.4	3.8	13.6	66.5
Indiana	34	41.6	71.7	29.4	35.9	12.1	6.3	3.5	10.4	67.1
Michigan	30	43.0	73.4	31.7	32.3	13.6	5.7	3.7	13.6	67.3
Minnesota	34	41.2	70.8	33.3	35.8	13.5	7.5	3.5	14.4	71.2
Penn State	28	47.6	70.9	36.8	35.1	15.3	8.1	3.2	14.0	72.9

'What could have been' still will be pretty darn good

If coach Bill Self hadn't left Illinois—and if Charlie Villanueva hadn't reneged on his oral commitment—how good would the Illini have been this season? ...

If Erazem Lorbek hadn't headed back to Europe, would Michigan State have been the preseason No. 1 team in the nation? ...

If Rick Rickert hadn't foolishly declared for the NBA draft, would Minnesota have finally delivered its expected breakout season? ...

If Michigan hadn't been banned from the 2004 NCAA Tournament. ...

"If." That little word seemingly slowed the momentum that the Big Ten was building for a big, big season in 2003-04. Here's another little word, though, that offers more encouragement for the coming season: "but."

But Illinois still has a young nucleus, led by rising point guard Dee Brown. ...

But Michigan State is loaded with an overwhelming amount of talent on the wing, and big man Paul Davis is ready to be an elite player. ...

But Wisconsin, which has played better than it has looked on paper under Bo Ryan, now looks pretty darn good on paper. ...

So even though everything didn't fall perfectly for the Big Ten, it still has much leaning in its direction this season. The No. 1 reason is Michigan State, which just missed the Final Four in 2003 despite a down regular season. The Spartans should be great from start to finish this time around.

ASCENDING: Ohio State. Jim O'Brien can coach. He can take middling talent and form it into a postseason team. It should be fun to see what he can do with above-average players. Leading scorer Brent Darby is gone, but look at what O'Brien will have that largely was unavailable to him last season: transfers J.J. Sullinger (Arkansas) and Tony Stockman (Clemson); McDonald's All-American Ivan Harris; Terence Dials, who missed the final 26 games because of a

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Wisconsin	12	4	24	8
Illinois	11	5	25	7
Purdue	10	6	19	11
Michigan State	10	6	22	13
Michigan	10	6	17	13
Indiana	8	8	21	13
Minnesota	8	8	19	14
Iowa	7	9	17	14
Ohio State	7	9	17	15
Northwestern	3	13	12	17
Penn State	2	14	7	21

Predictions

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Michigan State* | 7. Michigan |
| 2. Illinois* | 8. Iowa |
| 3. Wisconsin* | 9. Minnesota |
| 4. Ohio State* | 10. Northwestern |
| 5. Indiana* | 11. Penn State |
| 6. Purdue* | *NCAA Tournament pick |

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Dee Brown, Illinois	6-0	175	So.
G	Daniel Horton, Michigan	6-3	190	So.
G	Bracey Wright, Indiana	6-3	195	So.
G	Devin Harris, Wisconsin	6-3	175	Jr.
F/C	Paul Davis, Michigan State	6-11	250	So.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Chris Hill, Michigan State	6-3	190	Jr.
G	Marshall Strickland, Indiana	6-2	195	So.
G/F	Alando Tucker, Wisconsin	6-5	195	So.
F	Glen Worley, Iowa	6-7	218	Jr.
G/F	Alan Anderson, Michigan State	6-6	220	Jr.

Player spotlight

Player of the year

Dee Brown

Departed Brian Cook was the Big Ten Player of the Year last season, but Brown, as a freshman, might have been the Illini's top performer. This season, he'll be the unquestioned star of the team. Brown is T.J. Ford-like quick, and though he isn't as

gifted a passer as Ford (who is?), he is a much better scorer. In fact, in a game for USA Basketball in July, Brown scored 47 points. As a distributor, he led the Big Ten in assists-to-turnover ratio last season. What a gift first-year coach Bruce Weber received.

Newcomer of the year

Kris Humphries, F, Minnesota

This one-time Duke recruit didn't get cleared to play for Minnesota until July. That was big for a team that desperately needs him. Humphries has a lot in common with ex-Gopher Rick Rickert: Both were local heroes who chose other schools before switching to Minnesota; both are big guys who can hit the 3. Most likely, both will have short stays on campus. Humphries has an edge on Rickert in rebounding and versatility. Coach Dan Monson can use Humphries at power or small forward. Look for the Gophers to give him every chance to be a star right away—for better or worse.

Most underrated

Jared Reiner, C, Iowa

Last season was supposed to be a disaster, but the vastly improved Reiner kept that from happening, and the Hawkeyes were a respectable team. Reiner isn't very dangerous as a scorer, but he knows his limitations and takes high-percentage shots. He does sound work on the offensive and defensive glass, and he is a capable shot blocker.

back injury; and Rick Billings, who was academically ineligible. The key: point guard Brandon Fuss-Cheatham, who hurt his knee last season, has to stay healthy.

DESCENDING: Minnesota. Rickert leaving is a serious blow to the Gophers, who didn't reach the NCAA Tournament in either of the two seasons that the highly touted big man was on campus. Though it would appear that landing McDonald's All-American Kris Humphries balances out Rickert's early departure, remember this: Humphries arrives with one eye already on the NBA.

PLAYERS ON THE RISE:

1. Maurice Ager, G, Michigan State. Ager sat out eight of the first 11 games of his freshman season because of injury, but he came on late, scoring in double figures four times in the postseason. Ager has an explosive first step to get by his defender, and, despite hitting only 20 percent of his 3-point shots at the Junior World Championship over the summer, he normally has a soft touch from behind the arc. He's a good leaper, as well. Spartans coach Tom Izzo says Ager is as good an athlete as he has coached. Ager has supreme confidence and a scorer's mentality. His athleticism and determination make him an effective on-ball defender, something that will endear him to Izzo. The only thing that could hold back Ager: getting enough play-

ing time on a crowded wing.

2. Deron Williams, G, Illinois. Last year, the Illini started three freshmen. Most fans knew them as "Dee Brown and the two other guys." Well, Williams—and James Augustine, for that matter—should begin to stand more this season. Williams lacks outstanding quickness, but he is physical, especially for a perimeter player. That enables him to back down weaker foes. Williams has a good understanding of the game, and he can help Brown with the playmaking responsibilities. Williams needs to improve his shot, both from 3-point range and the free throw line, but he showed signs of doing just that at the Junior World tournament.

3. T.J. Parker, G, Northwestern. Parker was a bit of a novelty early last season because he is the younger brother of Spurs point guard Tony Parker. But T.J. proved as a freshman that he can stand on his own. He led the Wildcats in minutes and 3-point shooting and was second in scoring, assists and steals. Like Tony, T.J. has good quickness and is a dangerous shooter. His best days are ahead, and the same can be said for Northwestern. Though the Wildcats still will be ticketed for the bottom of the league, coach Bill Carmody is turning them into a tougher out.

TSN

E-mail associate editor Kyle Veltrop at kveltrop@sportingnews.com.

RANKING THE 2003 RECRUITING CLASSES

By Mike Sullivan, Rivals.com

- 1. Michigan State.** Shannon Brown can dominate on offense. Brandon Cotton will fit in nicely with Brown. Drew Naymick eventually should develop into a player who can play serious minutes.
- 2. Ohio State.** This is a class that fills several needs. McDonald's All-American Ivan Harris can score from the wing, Tony Stockman adds leadership, and fellow transfer J.J. Sullinger brings offensive firepower.
- 3. Wisconsin.** Brian Butch breaks his back on both ends of the court and will make other players better. Zach Morley will contribute right away in the paint. Kammron Taylor will help in the backcourt.
- 4. Illinois.** A solid class, top to bottom. Richard McBride, one of the best 50 players in the 2003 class, has nice long-range skills and can attack the basket. Brian Randle also will develop into a solid player.
- 5. Michigan.** Dion Harris is a big-time player who can have an immediate impact. Courtney Sims developed late but has a solid upside and should be one of the go-to guys of the future.
- 6. Minnesota.** Kris Humphries is a terrific offensive player. Kerry Woolridge also is a solid pickup.
- 7. Iowa.** Mike Henderson is very capable. He'll help right away. Erek Hansen may help this year, too.
- 8. Indiana.** Pat Ewing Jr. is trying to transform himself into a small forward but has work to do.
- 9. Penn State.** The three recruits didn't crack any top 100 lists but could grab some minutes.
- 10. Purdue.** There are no big-name players, but Adam Liddell is versatile, and Ije Nwankwo can rebound.
- 11. Northwestern.** Vince Scott needs bulk but can hit the 15-footer and has underrated passing skills.

Best bets

1. Michigan will not repeat its strong showing from a year ago, despite the presence of star G Daniel Horton. The Wolverines are entering their second straight season with no hope for postseason play; it's tough to keep motivated for that long without the goal of the NCAA Tournament. Plus, the Wolverines will miss LaVell Blanchard, who didn't quite live up to his hype but still was pretty good. Coach Tommy Amaker has the Wolverines going in the right direction; they just will take a couple of steps backward first.

2. Michigan State's front line took a huge hit when Erazem Lorbek left school; that leaves Paul Davis as the only proven post player. But the Spartans still will lead the league in rebounding. Size is a big part of rebounding, but Tom Izzo's teams through the years have shown that heart, hustle and desire are even more important.

3. Wisconsin will overcome the loss of sharpshooter Kirk Penney with the best balance in the league. Look for Devin Harris, Freddie Owens, Alando Tucker, Mike Wilkinson and Brian Butch each to average more than 10 points.

1. Michigan State

WHAT WE LIKE: The Spartans return almost every key player from a bunch that stormed to the NCAA Tournament's Elite Eight last season. The perimeter is packed with depth and talent, so much so that leading returning scorer Chris Hill is expected to have to battle for time and might evolve into a sharpshooting sixth man. Hill, who hit a Big Ten-best 95 3-pointers last season, and fellow juniors Alan Anderson and Kelvin Torbert, form the nucleus of a team determined to return to power. Anderson, a 6-6 swingman who can play four positions, slashes, passes and gets to the free throw line. Torbert,

TSN's High School Player of the Year in 2001, improved last year after a disappointing freshman season. He averaged 8.7 points and 3.8 rebounds, played excellent on-ball defense and showed the explosiveness he flashed as a prep star. And don't forget about high-flying freshman Shannon Brown, a blue-chip shooting guard from Maywood, Ill., and Brandon Cotton, a highly touted, score-first guard from Detroit. Didn't we tell you coach Tom Izzo's backcourt was a crowded and competitive place? Up front, sophomore center Paul Davis is the man. Davis held his own in the bruising Big Ten as a freshman and grew into a force by the end of the season, playing the last-second hero in a Sweet 16 win against Maryland. Over the summer, Davis improved his shooting range while starring for USA Basketball's junior men's team. At the world championship in Greece, he led the U.S. in rebounding (8.7 per game) and scoring (17.7), setting the stage for a breakout sophomore season.

WHAT SCARES US: Michigan State's non-league schedule would scare almost anyone: Kansas, UCLA, Kentucky, Syracuse, Duke and Oklahoma are on the list. Izzo has drawn his saber for a head-on charge against a long line of the

game's storied powers. Is it courageous or foolhardy? Probably both. There's little doubt playing such stiff competition will prepare the team for Big Ten and NCAA Tournament play. But the risk is clear: Too many losses could cost the Spartans their confidence and perhaps much more. The point guard spot remains a patchwork unit. Izzo would like to keep Hill, a converted shooting guard, at his natural position. But Hill probably will have to play the point along with senior Rashi Johnson, Cotton and Anderson, who played a key part directing the Spartans' offense during last season's NCAA Tournament run but is expected to get more minutes at power forward this season. There's enough talent among the four to handle the job. It's a matter of finding the right mix. There is a lack of depth in the frontcourt, thanks to the unexpected departure of Erazem Lorbek, who left East Lansing after one year to enter the NBA draft only to pull out and pursue a pro career in Europe. The absence of Lorbek, who blossomed during the NCAA Tournament, leaves Izzo without the smooth-shooting big man he builds his offense around and puts even more pressure on Davis. The other front-line spots will go to Jason Andreas, a gritty but previously seldom-used senior, and redshirt freshman Delco Rowley.

X-FACTOR: How do the Spartans replace Lorbek? After losing three players—Jason Richardson, Zach Randolph and Marcus Taylor—to early pro departures in the previous two seasons, Izzo thought he finally was safe last spring. Lorbek's leaving doesn't knock the Spartans from the Big Ten's preseason perch—or from a fairly short list of national championship contenders. But the team will struggle to replace his outside shot, which pulled opposing big men to the perimeter, and nifty moves around the basket. Davis must stay healthy and play substantially more minutes. Andreas, Rowley and Drew Naymick, a 6-10 freshman who likely would have redshirted had Lorbek stayed, all must chip in. Izzo also plans to counter the lack of frontcourt depth with four-guard lineups.

Schedule
 N21 Bucknell
 N29-30 Spartann Classic
 D3 Duke
 D6 Oklahoma*
 D13 Kentucky**
 D16 South Florida
 D20 at UCLA
 D30 Coppin State
 J3 at Syracuse
 J10 at Wisconsin
 J14 Penn State
 J17 Michigan
 J21 at Northwestern
 J25 at Purdue
 J28 at Minnesota
 J31 Indiana
 F4 Iowa
 F7 at Ohio State
 F10 at Illinois
 F14 Minnesota
 F17 Purdue
 F21 Northwestern
 F24 at Michigan
 F28 at Penn State
 M2/3 Wisconsin
 *at Auburn Hills, Mich.
 **at Detroit



Alan Anderson

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

A Big Ten coach says: They've always been criticized for not having a point guard, but they got to the Elite Eight last season without one, and they should be at least as good or better. The way they play, they don't do a lot of point guard-driven stuff. They run a lot of sets, and it's not like they don't have guys who can handle the ball. They've got Alan Anderson, and Chris Hill is adequate. Tom Izzo does a good job getting guys to figure out roles; maybe not liking them but getting it done, anyway. They don't have a fleet of great outside shooters. Hill is really good, but there's nobody else.

Spartans data

Coach: Tom Izzo (189-78, 8 years; 19-5 NCAA Tournament; won NCAA title in 2000).

Assistant coaches: Mark Montgomery (2 years), Doug Wojcik (1st), Dwayne Stephens (1st).

2002-03 record: 22-13. Big Ten:

10-6/T3rd. Lost to Texas in NCAA South final.

Last regular-season title: 2001 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.

Site: East Lansing, Mich.

Home court: Breslin Center (14,759).

Website: www.msuspartans.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
13	G	Maurice Ager	6-4/180	So.	6.7	2.3	0.6	40.0	77.5	39.7
15	G/F	Alan Anderson*	6-6/220	Jr.	9.8	3.7	1.3	50.3	84.2	30.8
44	C	Jason Andreas	6-10/250	Sr.	1.0	1.3	0.1	44.4	78.6	0.0
30	G	Tim Bograkovs	6-2/190	So.	1.6	1.5	0.8	42.6	50.0	33.3
		G Shannon Brown	6-3/190	Fr.	Considered nation's top SG recruit.					
		G Brandon Cotton	6-0/190	Fr.	Super-quick athlete who can shoot.					
40	F/C	Paul Davis	6-11/250	So.	7.8	4.7	0.4	43.8	66.0	16.7
		F Andy Harvey	6-5/200	So.	1.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	—	—
5	G	Chris Hill*	6-3/190	Jr.	13.7	3.4	1.5	43.3	76.3	40.4
11	G	Rashi Johnson	6-2/190	Sr.	1.0	0.8	1.0	27.8	71.4	0.91
		C Drew Naymick	6-10/235	Fr.	Will fill shot-blocking role.					
50	F	Delco Rowley	6-8/240	Fr.	Big-body rebounder redshirted last year.					
23	G	Kelvin Torbert*	6-4/215	Jr.	8.7	3.8	1.7	42.0	74.7	32.3

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Aloysius Anagnonye*	6-8/255	7.4	5.3	1.1	61.8	69.1	—
F	Adam Ballinger	6-9/250	5.5	3.0	1.0	41.8	89.3	37.5
F	Erazem Lorbek*	6-8/220	6.4	3.3	0.6	53.4	64.9	46.2

2. Illinois

WHAT WE LIKE: Super sophomores Dee Brown, Deron Williams and James Augustine. The heralded trio lived up to its billing last season, combining for 90 starts and averaging 25.3 points, 12.5 rebounds and 10.3 assists while helping Illinois to 25 wins and the Big Ten tournament title. Brown, the lightning quick guard, was the best of the three. He did it all for the Illini—driving,

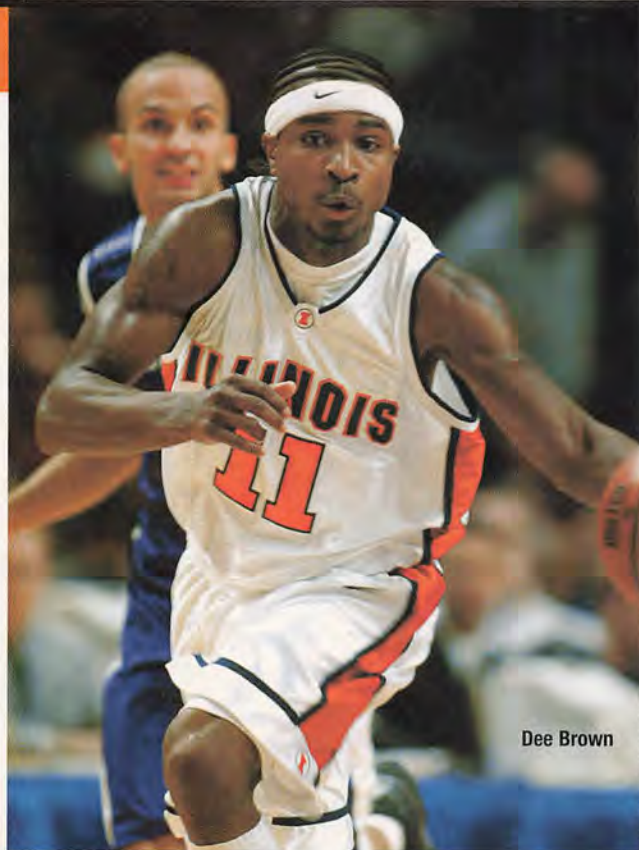
dishing, making open shots and directing the Big Ten's most potent offense. He led the league in assists-to-turnover ratio and, perhaps most encouraging, got stronger down the stretch, averaging 16.3 points in the last six games of the regular season. Brown sharpened his game over the summer with the USA Basketball Men's Junior team (Williams also was a member), scoring 47 points in one game at the World Championship tournament in Greece. He needs to improve his 3-point (32.9 percent) and free throw shooting (68.1 percent) but is the early favorite for conference player of the year. Williams didn't score as much but finished second to Brown in assist-to-turnover ratio and led the league with 77 assists in conference play. Augustine, a 6-10 power forward, is poised for a breakthrough season. The second-year studs are surrounded by a solid cast, including juniors Roger Powell and Luther Head, a high-flying guard who hopes to rebound from an injury-plagued 2002-03. Inside, 7-2 junior Nick Smith is expecting bigger things. At 240 pounds, Smith won't push many folks around, but he led the Illini in blocks last year (38) and is a deadeye at the free throw line. Though it lost blue-chipper Charlie Villanueva to Connecticut when former coach Bill Self bolted to Kansas, Illinois landed three promising freshmen in Richard McBride, Brian Randle and Warren Carter.

WHAT SCARES US: The transition to a new coach. Under Self, the Illini won back-to-back titles in 2001 and 2002 and narrowly missed another last season. Enter Bruce Weber, who built Southern Illinois into a mid-major power by winning Missouri Valley Conference championships the past two seasons and reaching the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament in 2002. Weber, 46, was 103-54 in five seasons with the Salukis. But don't think he doesn't know the Big Ten. He spent 18 years learning from Purdue coach Gene Keady. Thus, you can bet Weber's players will defend and sell out on the court—or sit. Still, there always are bumps when a new guy takes over, and the Illini will have to make the transition from Self's set plays to Weber's motion offense. Illinois fans are used to winning, and Weber won't have much of a honeymoon if the getting-to-know-you process takes too long. He doesn't get many breaks in the nonleague schedule, which includes Pittsburgh, Temple, North Carolina, Arkansas, Memphis and Missouri. The other huge question is how to replace Big Ten Player of the Year Brian Cook. Cook averaged 20.0 points and 7.6 rebounds and generally was a steadying influence on an extremely young team last season. Illinois still has talent in the post, but the team is bound to miss Cook's experience, especially in big games and on the road in the Big Ten. Though talent is abundant, this is a young team. The lone senior is Jerrance Howard, a seldom-used reserve.

X-FACTOR: Weber is the new part of the Illini equation. Self turned Illinois into a Big Ten power and major player on the national scene. Can Weber take the program to even loftier heights? That's his mission after inheriting a team loaded with talent. His emphasis on defense shouldn't be anything new for the Illini, which already was one of the conference's sharpest defensive teams under Self. And there's plenty of offensive ammunition. It probably will come down to personalities. How does Weber compare to Self, and can Weber motivate the team to perform at a higher level? He got a head start on bonding with his players during an August exhibition tour of Scandinavia.

Schedule

N14	Pittsburgh*
N22	Western Illinois
N26	Mercer
N29	at Temple
D2	North Carolina**
D6	Arkansas***
D9	Maryland-E Shore
D13	Memphis
D23	Missouri****
D30	at Illinois-Chicago
J3	Illinois State
J7	Ohio State
J10	Purdue
J14	at Northwestern
J17	Iowa
J21	Penn State
J24	at Wisconsin
J31	Michigan
F3	at Indiana
F8	at Minnesota
F10	Michigan State
F18	Wisconsin
F21	at Penn State
F25	at Iowa
F28	Northwestern
M2/3	at Purdue
M6/7	at Ohio State
*at New York	
**at Greensboro, N.C.	
***at Chicago	
****at St. Louis	



Dee Brown

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

A Big Ten coach says: I thought Roger Powell was as improved a player as there was in the Big Ten last year. When he came in, he couldn't make an outside shot. With a new coach, it's always a question—is it going to be the stepfather mentality? "My 'real dad' didn't treat us like that." They'll miss Brian Cook. It's hard to bring in a guy that you can just mark down 18 points and 10 rebounds every night. Deron Williams is talented but was up-and-down. Without Sean Harrington, maybe Williams will get more rope to see how good he can be.

Illini data

Coach: Bruce Weber (1st year; 103-54 overall, 5 years; NCAA Tournament 2-2).

Assistant coaches: Wayne McClain (2 years), Chris Lowery (1st), Jay Price (1st).

2002-03 record: 25-7. Big Ten: 11-5/2nd. Lost to Notre Dame in

NCAA West second round.

Last regular-season title: 2002 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Champaign, Ill.

Home court: Assembly Hall (16,833).

Website: www.fightingillini.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
40	F	James Augustine*	6-10/230	So.	7.0	5.8	0.8	58.0	71.1	35.7
11	G	Dee Brown*	6-0/175	So.	12.0	3.7	5.0	43.4	68.1	32.9
41	F	Warren Carter	6-9/210	Fr.	Class 5A Player of the Year in Texas.					
4	G	Luther Head	6-3/175	Jr.	7.9	2.8	1.7	51.9	73.9	42.4
25	G	Jerrance Howard	6-1/200	Sr.	0.6	0.2	0.5	25.0	—	16.7
50	F/C	Jack Ingram	6-10/230	Jr.	Started 11 games in two years at Tulsa.					
33	G	Richard McBride	6-3/210	Fr.	Four-time all-league player in high school.					
43	F	Roger Powell*	6-6/220	Jr.	8.7	3.4	0.4	59.1	57.9	40.8
42	F	Brian Randle	6-7/205	Fr.	Consensus first-team all-state in Illinois.					
45	C	Nick Smith	7-2/240	Jr.	5.3	3.0	0.8	49.6	86.4	45.5
1	F/C	Aaron Spears	6-9/250	Fr.	3.2	1.5	1.0	66.7	42.9	—
5	G	Deron Williams*	6-3/210	So.	6.3	3.0	4.5	42.6	53.3	35.4

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Brian Cook*	6-10/240	20.0	7.6	2.0	47.9	82.0	30.3
G	Sean Harrington	6-3/185	7.3	2.3	2.0	44.4	63.3	44.4

3. Wisconsin

WHAT WE LIKE: When it comes to basketball, the Badgers are about as sexy as the prospect of spending spring break in Madison. But before you can say cheese, they're lining up to snap another championship photo. All coach Bo Ryan has done in his first two seasons is win the school's first back-to-back Big Ten titles since 1923-24. Last year's outright crown was Wisconsin's first since 1947. How do the Badgers do it? For starters, the team guards the ball jealously. Last year, it set a school record and ranked second in the nation by

averaging just 10.4 turnovers. Add in solid shooting—the Badgers were second in the Big Ten at 46.3 percent from the field—and defense—they were first in points allowed at 59.3—and it's easy to see why they've been at the top of the conference. Now the bad news for the rest of the league: The team returns four starters, all of whom averaged at least 10 points last season, and adds 6-11 McDonald's All-American Brian Butch. Junior point guard Devin Harris, who has started each of his 64 career games and averaged 34.3 minutes, is the leader. Last season, he led the league in steals (2.0 per game) and was among the leaders in several offensive categories. In a wide-open field, he should be a candidate for Big Ten Player of the Year honors. Harris is flanked by senior Freddie Owens (a shooting guard who can post up), junior Mike Wilkinson and sophomore Alando Tucker, an athletic 6-5 swingman who was a pleasant surprise last season. Besides providing a spark on offense and the glass, Tucker was versatile enough to defend opponents ranging from 6-2 Marshall Strickland of Indiana to 6-11 Paul Davis of Michigan State.

WHAT SCARES US: Not much, aside from the loss of Kirk Penney, the 6-5 New Zealander

who seemed to do it all for the Badgers. Penney, a two-time first-team All-Big Ten pick, was one of only 12 players in the nation to average at least 16.0 points, 6.0 rebounds and 3.0 assists. His departure means the team must come up with points somewhere else. The most likely new sources are Tucker and fellow sophomore Boo Wade, who gained valuable experience in Wisconsin's run to the Sweet 16. The Badgers likely will miss Penney's veteran savvy even more than his numbers. Despite the number of returning starters, this team still is relatively young with only three seniors on the roster. By now, Wisconsin has lost any element of surprise it might have enjoyed on the way to its last two titles. It should have the full attention and respect of the league, which means playing as a marked team in every game. Ryan has gained the attention of some peers, most notably Michigan State coach Tom Izzo, by leaving his starters in and forcing the action until the final buzzer of games that were decided. Say what you will. Ryan shrugs off such unpleasantness and simply keeps winning. He led Division III Wisconsin-Platteville to four national titles, has a career winning percentage of .775 and has the most wins in his first two years (43) of any Wisconsin coach.

X-FACTOR: What will happen up front? Despite not starting a player taller than the 6-8 Wilkinson, the team held its own on the boards last season. Hard to believe it can pull that off again in the bruising Big Ten. This time around, Ryan should have plenty of candidates to pull off the inside job. He's counting on the versatile Butch, who is a candidate to become the league's freshman of the year, to start right away and add depth with junior college transfer Zach Morley. But the Badgers likely will need help from senior Dave Mader, a former starter who was hampered the second half of the season by an ankle sprain. Austrian Andreas Helmigk, a 6-9 redshirt sophomore who also had injury woes, and 6-8 sophomore Ray Nixon need to play bigger roles, too. If the Badgers can improve their play on the front line, look out. They might be lining up for another title picture.



Devin Harris

ALBERT DICKSON/TSN

A Big Ten coach says: They had a point guard issue last year, but Devin Harris turned out well. He's one of the most underrated players in the country, makes smart plays and does a great job getting in passing lanes. The best thing they have going for them is the way they play. It seems that they don't ever give up layups. Every shot is contested, but they don't foul. Officials read that they don't foul, and all of a sudden they don't call fouls. They're going to run that same pattern, and they're going to generate good shots. But the fewer points you score, the closer games tend to be.

Badgers data

Coach: Bo Ryan (43-21, 2 years; 73-48 overall, 4 years; NCAA Tournament 3-2).

Assistant coaches: Rob Jeter (2 years), Gary Close (1), Greg Gard (2).

2002-03 record: 24-8, Big Ten: 12-4/1st. Lost to Kentucky in NCAA

Midwest semifinal.

Last regular-season title: 2003
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Madison, Wis.

Home court: Kohl Center (17,142).

Website: www.uwbadgers.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
32	F/C	Brian Butch	6-11/220	Fr.	Versatile, with a soft shooting touch.					
5	F/C	Jason Chappell	6-10/230	So.	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	50.0	—
13	G	Clayton Hanson	6-5/185	Jr.	2.1	0.5	0.1	41.9	50.0	43.8
34	G	Devin Harris*	6-3/175	Jr.	12.8	4.6	3.1	46.5	75.6	38.7
21	F	Andreas Helmigk	6-9/245	So.	1.8	1.1	0.5	56.8	38.5	50.0
30	C	Dave Mader	7-0/260	Sr.	2.5	2.1	0.4	45.9	64.3	—
44	F	Zach Morley	6-8/220	Jr.	Averaged 15.2 ppg, 8.2 rpg in JC last year.					
4	F	Ray Nixon	6-8/220	So.	0.5	0.6	0.1	23.5	0.0	0.0
24	G	Freddie Owens*	6-2/185	Sr.	10.3	1.8	1.7	44.4	82.0	35.1
23	G	Kammron Taylor	6-2/165	Fr.	Can play either backcourt spot.					
42	G/F	Alando Tucker*	6-5/195	So.	12.0	5.9	1.1	53.3	67.9	31.0
3	G	Ike Ukawuba	6-3/175	Sr.	1.0	0.0	0.0	83.3	0.0	—
12	G	Boo Wade	6-3/185	So.	3.3	1.8	1.8	48.8	57.1	37.9
54	F/C	Mike Wilkinson*	6-8/240	Jr.	10.2	6.8	1.6	43.3	78.6	29.6

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Kirk Penney*	6-5/220	16.2	6.0	3.1	44.6	75.2	38.5

4. Ohio State

WHAT WE LIKE: What we see. But we're even more intrigued by what we haven't seen. The Buckeyes should be better despite losing their two leading scorers—Brent Darby and Sean Connolly—and a top inside player (Zach Williams transferred to Wright State). That's because two previously injured standouts and two impact transfer players will be in the mix. Junior point guard Brandon Fuss-Cheatham (knee) and sophomore Terence Dials (lower back), who set an OSU freshman record for field-goal accuracy two years

ago by shooting 62.3 percent, were lost for much of last season because of health woes. Both players are expected to return at full strength this year. Perhaps more important, transfers Tony Stockman (Clemson) and J.J. Sullinger (Arkansas) are eligible to play after sitting out last year because of NCAA rules. Stockman, Ohio's 2000 high school co-Player of the Year, is a 3-point threat and penetrator who has two years of eligibility remaining. Sullinger, Ohio's 2001 co-Player of the Year and a Columbus native, is a talented defender and slasher on offense who has three years of eligibility left. Their presence in the backcourt with redshirt sophomore Matt Sylvester should offset the loss of Darby and Connolly and boost the Buckeyes, who missed the NCAA Tournament last season for the first time in five years. Ohio State also gets back Rick Billings, a talented and tough 6-3 guard who was academically ineligible last year. Up front, 7-foot senior Velimir Radinovic is poised for a breakout season. He'll get help from senior Shun Jenkins, sophomore Charles Bass and freshman Ivan Harris, a McDonald's All-American. Bass, a lanky shot blocker, was the hero of OSU's Big Ten tournament win against Michigan State after banking in his first free throw of the season

in the final seconds. He will have an expanded role this year. Harris is a 6-8 lefthander with a smooth shooting touch who should be an immediate inside-outside threat.

WHAT SCARES US: How will all the new faces fit together? On paper, the Buckeyes have everything they need. But there are bound to be some growing pains as roles and playing time are sorted out. How will coach Jim O'Brien—who had almost no depth last season—juggle the sudden influx of talent on his bench? There is plenty of experience on the roster, but it could take the team a while to refine its chemistry. If it does, watch out. The Buckeyes could not score last season, ranking ninth in the league at 64.2 points per game (and last at 61.8 in conference games), and were one of the worst shooting clubs (41.0 percent). Often, it was Darby or nothing. The new crew faces the pressure of having to produce points immediately. The team also must shore up its free throw shooting. The Buckeyes got to the line more than any Big Ten team except Purdue in conference play last season but made only 69.8 percent. Also, can OSU buck the injury bug? In addition to Dials and Fuss-Cheatham, Radinovic and Jenkins were plagued by health problems last season. If the boo-boos bite again, the Buckeyes might face the same uphill battle.

X-FACTORS: Stockman and Sullinger. They spent last year together on the practice squad, often beating the starting five. But that's only practice. Sullinger averaged 9.4 points and 3.0 rebounds as a freshman at Arkansas. Stockman was the top sophomore scorer (12.2 ppg) in the ACC in 2001-02 and tied a Clemson record by making eight 3-pointers in a game. It might take this duo a while to click, but their status as unknowns might initially work to their advantage. Big Ten coaches simply haven't seen them. If they live up to their billing, Ohio State might as well.



Terence Dials

A Big Ten coach says: They lost a lot, but they've got a lot coming in. It's just how they mesh and if the newcomers are as good as advertised. Ivan Harris is really good. They played almost exclusively zone defense last year. Jim O'Brien had so much success with it, maybe they'll be the Temple of the Big Ten. Velimir Radinovic is solid in a league where big, physical guys can prosper. Terence Dials is not super-skilled, but he is big, strong and aggressive. I think they're a question mark, but O'Brien is a really good coach, so nothing would surprise me.

Buckeyes data

Coach: Jim O'Brien (119-72, 6 years; 354-289 overall, 21 years; NCAA Tournament 11-7).

Assistant coaches: Rick Boyages (3 years), Monte Mathis (2), LaMonta Stone (1).

2002-03 record: 17-15. Big Ten: 7-9/T8th. Lost to Georgia Tech in NIT

first round.
Last regular-season title: 2002 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 2002.
Site: Columbus, Ohio
Home court: Value City Arena (19,200).
Website: www.ohiostatebuckeyes.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
1	C	Charles Bass	6-9/190	So.	0.6	1.2	0.1	33.3	50.0	—
15	G	Rick Billings	6-3/200	So.	Sat out '02-03 to focus on academics.					
12	G	Nick Dials	6-1/175	Fr.	Joins the Buckeyes as a walk-on.					
34	F	Terence Dials*	6-9/260	So.	7.0	5.8	0.8	46.9	63.2	—
2	G	B. Fuss-Cheatham	6-1/190	Jr.	1.6	2.4	1.5	22.6	40.9	22.2
3	F	Ivan Harris	6-8/220	Fr.	Should contribute right away.					
50	F	Shun Jenkins	6-6/240	Sr.	5.1	6.1	0.3	36.4	50.9	—
54	C	Matt Marinchick	6-10/260	Jr.	1.3	0.6	1.5	40.0	71.4	—
14	C	Velimir Radinovic*	7-0/250	Sr.	9.3	6.1	0.5	51.4	73.8	—
24	G	Shaun Smith	5-10/180	Sr.	0.5	0.3	0.1	100.0	50.0	—
10	G	Tony Stockman	6-1/180	Jr.	Hit 155 3s in two years with Clemson.					
0	G	J.J. Sullinger	6-5/200	So.	9.4 ppg in 29 games with Arkansas.					
40	G/F	Matt Sylvester	6-7/205	So.	5.7	2.8	1.4	42.0	59.0	23.5
Key losses										
Pos.	Name		Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%	
G	Sean Connolly*		6-5/210	11.8	3.5	1.9	43.2	83.9	40.7	
G	Brent Darby*		6-1/195	18.3	3.9	4.4	37.8	81.0	34.0	
F	Zach Williams*		6-7/230	9.3	5.2	1.2	44.0	61.7	—	

5. Indiana

WHAT WE LIKE: Bracey Wright, the sharpshooting guard who put the Hoosiers on his aching back. Wright averaged 16.2 points despite missing four games and playing in pain the last two months of the season because of a lower back injury. He had surgery in May to relieve nerve pressure and is expected to be at full strength. Fellow sophomore Marshall Strickland, fiery senior A.J. Moyer and redshirt freshman Roderick Wilmont round out a solid backcourt. Up front, 6-11 senior George Leach is the main man but must step up his offense. Sophomore Sean Kline and junior Mike Roberts, two lunch-pail players, must help carry the load. Newcomers Pat Ewing Jr.—the son of the former Georgetown and NBA great—and 6-10 Jessan Gray-Ashley should lend a hand.

WHAT SCARES US: The Hoosiers have launched 3-pointers at a record rate in coach Mike Davis' first three seasons, setting the school mark for 3s made (270) in 2001-02 and sinking 254 last season. Nobody complains when they go in. But last year, the Hoosiers hit only 34.9 percent of 727 attempts—by far the most in the league. Indiana could be even more reliant on the perimeter game this season. The team must find more consistent scoring inside to set up better outside looks. Of course, that won't be easy with the loss of forward Jeff Newton. The Hoosiers also are sure to miss the guidance of point guard Tom Coverdale.

X-FACTOR: How will Davis evolve as a coach? His much-publicized meltdown in a loss at Kentucky last season got him a one-game suspension. After Indiana fell to Pittsburgh in the second round of the NCAA Tournament, Davis put the blame on his players, calling them selfish. Davis, a sharp, young coach and a solid citizen, must control his emotions better to help the team.

Hoosiers data

Coach: Mike Davis (67-38, 3 years; 6-3 NCAA Tournament).

Assistant coaches: John Treloar (6 years), Ben McDonald (3), Thad Fitzpatrick (1).

2002-03 record: 21-13, Big Ten:

8-8/T6th. Lost to Pittsburgh in NCAA Midwest second round.

Last regular-season title: 2002 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1985.

Site: Bloomington, Ind.

Home court: Assembly Hall (17,484).

Website: www.iuhoosiers.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
3	F	Pat Ewing Jr.	6-8/215	Fr.	Son of Patrick can shoot and bang.					
44	F	Jessan Gray-Ashley	6-10/190	Fr.	Lacks bulk but can step out and shoot.					
21	G	Mark Johnson	6-2/190	Jr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
23	F	Sean Kline	6-8/230	So.	2.8	1.9	0.4	42.9	46.7	—
5	C	George Leach*	6-11/240	Sr.	6.5	5.5	0.4	55.2	63.3	—
2	G/F	A.J. Moyer	6-2/215	Sr.	5.5	3.9	0.8	54.5	64.1	28.6
12	G	Donald Perry	6-2/185	Jr.	2.2	0.8	0.4	31.0	73.1	26.9
33	F	Mike Roberts	6-9/220	Jr.	1.4	1.3	0.1	31.3	72.7	0.0
40	F	Jason Stewart	6-8/235	Sr.	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	—
22	G	Marshall Strickland*	6-2/195	So.	6.1	2.4	2.0	38.9	73.8	35.5
34	G	Ryan Tapak	6-2/180	Jr.	0.2	0.2	0.2	14.3	—	0.0
10	G	Roderick Wilmont	6-4/195	Fr.	Redshirted because of depth at position.					
4	G	Bracey Wright*	6-3/195	So.	16.2	5.0	2.1	43.3	75.2	37.5

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Tom Coverdale*	6-2/185	11.9	3.6	4.5	38.0	82.1	34.9
F	Kyle Hornsby	6-5/205	6.6	2.7	1.6	38.5	64.7	38.0
F	Jeff Newton*	6-9/210	14.9	8.2	2.0	43.2	74.8	29.7

Schedule

D20	Kentucky*	J24	at Minnesota	F21	Ohio State
N21	UNC Greensboro	D23	Morehead State	J27	Purdue
N24	at Vanderbilt	D29	at North Texas	J31	at Michigan State
N29	Xavier*	J3	Temple	F3	Illinois
D2	at Wake Forest	J6	at Wisconsin	F7	Iowa
D6	Missouri	J11	at Michigan	F11	at Penn State
D9	at Notre Dame	J17	Northwestern	F14	at Purdue
D13	Butler	J20	at Ohio State	F18	Minnesota

Boilermakers data

Coach: Gene Keady (488-235, 23 years; 526-254 overall, 25 years; NCAA Tournament 20-18).

Assistant coaches: Todd Foster (4 years), Cuonzo Martin (3), Tracy Webster (1st).

2002-03 record: 19-11, Big Ten: 10-

6/T3rd. Lost to Texas in NCAA South semifinal.

Last regular-season title: 1996.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: West Lafayette, Ind.

Home court: Mackey Arena (14,123).

Website: www.purduesports.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
31	F	Chris Booker*	6-10/247	Sr.	9.4	5.7	0.9	45.2	71.9	16.7
4	G/F	Melvin Buckley	6-7/200	So.	4.1	1.9	0.2	40.0	81.2	42.6
3	F	Brett Buscher	6-8/247	Sr.	5.9	2.9	0.3	51.9	63.0	14.3
32	F	Matt Carroll	6-8/233	So.	Redshirt played in 30 games in 2001-02.					
34	C	Kevin Garrity	6-11/250	Sr.	0.8	0.5	0.1	57.1	33.3	—
5	C	Ivan Kartelo*	6-11/265	Sr.	3.0	2.7	0.6	66.7	53.1	—
42	F	Matt Kiefer	6-10/225	So.	3.5	3.0	0.9	49.3	68.8	25.0
44	G/F	Adam Liddell	6-7/205	Fr.	Figures to redshirt.					
20	G	Kenneth Lowe*	6-3/197	Sr.	11.6	2.4	2.0	45.0	88.7	41.4
10	G	Brandon McKnight*	6-2/183	Jr.	5.4	2.3	2.5	44.6	77.1	11.1
21	F	Ije Nwankwo	6-7/260	Fr.	Will help out as rebounder, space-eater.					
11	G	Austin Parkinson	6-0/197	Sr.	0.9	1.1	1.9	31.6	61.1	33.3
2	G	David Teague	6-5/183	So.	5.7	2.2	0.4	38.5	76.5	36.1

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Willie Deane*	6-1/196	17.8	5.1	2.2	41.7	78.2	32.2
G	Darnetris Kilgore	6-5/204	6.8	2.4	0.6	37.4	75.0	30.0

Schedule

D27	Evansville	J27	at Indiana	F29	at Wisconsin
N23	Samford	D30	at Colorado State	J31	Ohio State
N26-29	Great Alaska Shoot.	J3	at Baylor	F4	at Penn State
D3	Clemson	J7	at Iowa	F7	at Michigan
D6	Chicago State	J10	at Illinois	F11	Northwestern
D10	at Oklahoma	J14	Wisconsin	F14	Indiana
D13	C. Michigan*	J21	Minnesota	F17	at Michigan State
D20-21	Boilermaker Inv.	J25	Michigan State	F21	at Minnesota

6. Purdue

WHAT WE LIKE: The rugged Boilermakers cover opponents far better than the combover on Gene Keady's dome. Purdue was one of the Big Ten's top defensive teams last year, ranking first in steals (7.2 per game) and holding foes to 41.2 percent shooting. They should improve this year with the return of four starters, including senior Kenneth Lowe, the league's reigning Defensive Player of the Year. Lowe is Purdue's leader but must look for his shot more often and get to the line, where he's automatic. All told, the Boilermakers return a solid nucleus from a team that contended for the Big Ten title last season.

WHAT SCARES US: The departure of scoring machine Willie Deane, which leaves a 17.8-point void in the Purdue lineup. A rotation of five perimeter players, including junior point guard Brandon McKnight and sophomores David Teague and Melvin Buckley, must help make up the difference. One of the tallest front lines in school history returns, but last season the team ranked ninth in the league in rebounding margin—with Deane grabbing 5.1 per game from his guard spot. Purdue also must regain a home-court edge. Though a student section dubbed the "Gene Pool" does its best, the team's attendance for conference games was third worst in the league—behind Penn State and Northwestern.

X-FACTOR: The front line. The season probably rests on the shoulders of senior Chris Booker, sophomore Matt Kiefer and the rest of the team's tall trees. Booker must get more aggressive and develop a wider array of moves; Kiefer must continue to develop after getting some starts late last season. They need help from seniors Ivan Kartelo and Brett Buscher and sophomore Matt Carroll, who is expected to make an impact after a redshirt year.

7. Michigan

WHAT WE LIKE: In the midst of a scandal threatening to crush his program, coach Tommy Amaker has made the Wolverines competitive again and continues to land top recruits, such as Michigan Mr. Basketball Dion Harris. After starting 0-6 last season, Michigan won 13 straight games and was within striking distance of the Big Ten regular-season title down the stretch. That's a tribute to Amaker's determination—and to a gutsy group of freshmen led by Daniel Horton. Horton was named Big Ten Freshman of the Year after averaging 15.2 points, penetrating consistently and sinking countless clutch shots as Michigan surged. Bernard Robinson, the team's lone senior starter, is a talented slasher and rugged rebounder.

WHAT SCARES US: Michigan is barred from postseason play for the second straight year because of its relationship with the late Ed Martin, a booster who provided cash to several former stars. Can Amaker again motivate the team without a carrot at the end of the stick? Horton, who scored just two points in a key late-season showdown against Wisconsin, wore down last season—and he wasn't alone. What's more, Horton must adapt to life without LaVell Blanchard, who led the Wolverines at 16.2 points per game and helped keep the heat off Horton with his long-range shooting.

X-FACTOR: The frontcourt. Sophomores Chris Hunter and Graham Brown made the Wolverines respectable on the boards last season. But they'll need help from incoming freshmen Courtney Sims and Brent Petway and from redshirt freshman Amadou Ba. If Michigan holds its ground in the paint and produces a modest amount of inside scoring, there are enough perimeter threats for the team to make some noise.

Wolverines data

Coach: Tommy Amaker (28-31, 2 years; 96-86 overall, 6 years; NCAA Tournament 2-1).
Assistant coaches: Charles Ramsey (2 years), Chuck Swenson (2), Andy Moore (1st).

2002-03 record: 17-13. Big Ten: 10-6/T3rd. Ineligible for postseason.
Last regular-season title: 1986.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Ann Arbor, Mich.
Home court: Crisler Arena (13,751).
Website: www.mgoblue.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
2	G/F	Lester Abram*	6-6/200	So.	10.6	4.4	1.3	47.9	85.6	40.7
11	G/F	John Andrews	6-5/200	Fr.						
50	C	Amadou Ba	6-10/250	Fr.	Sat out last season as a partial qualifier.					
25	C	Graham Brown*	6-9/250	So.	5.8	4.6	0.5	60.6	51.9	—
40	F	Colin Dill	6-7/240	Sr.	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
22	G	Sherrod Harrell	6-3/205	So.	0.8	0.4	0.1	50.0	50.0	42.9
5	G/F	Dion Harris	6-3/200	Fr.	Averaged 20.5 ppg as four-year H.S. starter.					
4	G	Daniel Horton*	6-3/190	So.	15.2	2.3	4.5	37.2	76.4	34.3
31	C	Chris Hunter	6-11/215	So.	5.4	3.4	0.5	44.9	63.2	0.0
34	F	J.C. Mathis	6-8/235	Jr.	Played two years at Virginia before transfer.					
23	F	Brent Petway	6-9/200	Fr.	One of top H.S. players in Georgia last year.					
21	G/F	Bernard Robinson*	6-6/210	Sr.	11.7	6.1	3.4	45.6	84.8	35.1
44	C	Courtney Sims	6-10/220	Fr.	Grew 7 inches as H.S. freshman.					
3	G	Dani Wohl	5-11/175	So.	Sat out last season after transferring.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Chuck Bailey	6-7/220	2.4	1.7	0.1	59.6	40.9	100.0
G/F	LaVell Blanchard*	6-7/215	16.2	6.8	1.0	42.2	81.4	41.8
G	Gavin Groninger	6-5/205	1.5	1.1	0.6	17.5	78.9	19.1

Schedule

N21	Oakland	D20	Central Michigan	J17	at Michigan State	F14	at Iowa
N26	High Point	D22	Delaware State	J21	at Wisconsin	F18	Penn State
N30	at Butler	D27	UCLA	J24	at Penn State	F22	Wisconsin
D2	N.C. State	D30	Boston University	J28	Iowa	F24	Michigan State
D6	at Vanderbilt	J3	at Fairfield	J31	at Illinois	F29	Ohio State
D13	Bowling Green	J7	Northwestern	F7	Purdue	M2/3	at Indiana
		J11	Indiana	F11	at Minnesota	M6/7	at Northwestern

8. Iowa

WHAT WE LIKE: Four returning starters and five seniors provide experience, a rare and valuable commodity in today's game. Two of the returning starters—forward Glen Worley and center Jared Reiner—are seniors. Worley can bury jumpers and drive by defenders who press him. Reiner averaged 9.7 points and led the league in rebounding last season (8.3 per game) despite hand and knee injuries. If he can stay healthy, Reiner is poised to become an inside force. Sophomore starters Jeff Horner and Greg Brunner had solid freshman seasons. Horner started all 31 games and set a school record for freshmen with 140 assists. The Hawkeyes were second in Big Ten rebounding behind Michigan State last season.

WHAT SCARES US: After four straight losing seasons in the Big Ten—two more than predecessor Tom Davis had in 13 years—some folks might be starting to wonder whether coach Steve Alford is the right man for the job. With veteran savvy on his side, this could be a pivotal year for the coach—and the program. Iowa has plenty of scoring options, but without departed Chauncey Leslie it lacks a proven go-to guy. One of the team's familiar faces must step forward. For a team coached by a former renowned sharpshooter, the Hawkeyes aren't exactly dead-on from beyond the stripe. Last season, they ranked last in the conference in 3-point shooting (29.0 percent), which makes it hard to play catch up.

X-FACTOR: Can Alford push the right buttons? Veterans such as Brody Boyd, Pierre Pierce (who redshirted last season because of off-court woes) and Sean Sonderleiter give Iowa a deep roster. Last season, Iowa's short bench kept Alford's decisions on playing time to a minimum. This year, he'll have the nice problem of having to divide minutes and responsibility in many different ways.

Hawkeyes data

Coach: Steve Alford (73-58, 4 years; 229-135 overall, 12 years; NCAA Tournament 3-2).
Assistant coaches: Rich Walker (4 years), Greg Lansing (4), Brian Jones (4).
2002-03 record: 17-14. Big Ten:

7-9/T8th. Lost to Georgia Tech in NIT second round.
Last regular-season title: 1979.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Iowa City, Iowa.
Home court: Carver-Hawkeye Arena (15,500).
Website: www.hawkeyesports.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
11	G	Brody Boyd	5-11/165	Sr.	9.7	2.1	1.4	37.1	73.9	30.9
15	G	Jack Brownlee	6-0/165	Jr.	Redshirted last season after transfer.					
44	F	Greg Brunner*	6-7/240	So.	7.5	5.2	1.5	52.6	58.4	21.9
1	F	Nick DeWitz	6-8/215	So.	Brings size and athleticism to frontcourt.					
34	C	Erek Hansen	6-11/210	So.	6.1 rpg, 5.3 bpg at JC level last year.					
35	G	Mike Henderson	6-2/190	Fr.	Hawkeyes could use a dead-eye shooter.					
2	G	Jeff Horner*	6-3/185	So.	8.2	4.4	4.5	33.2	76.7	27.7
3	G	Pierre Pierce	6-4/195	So.	Redshirt averaged 7.1 ppg in 2001-02.					
20	G	Ben Rand	6-6/185	Fr.	Impressive scorer and rebounder in HS.					
5	C	Jared Reiner*	6-11/255	Sr.	9.7	8.3	1.4	54.1	74.4	—
53	C	Sean Sonderleiter	6-9/235	Sr.	8.2	3.9	1.0	51.7	62.9	11.1
30	F	Kurt Spurgeon	6-5/195	Sr.	1.0	0.8	0.1	30.8	71.4	25.0
4	F	Glen Worley*	6-7/218	Sr.	10.9	5.2	1.5	44.6	72.1	39.0

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Chauncey Leslie*	6-0/165	15.8	4.5	2.9	49.2	78.1	29.1

Schedule

N23	UNC Asheville	D22	Texas Tech**	J21	at Iowa State	F14	Michigan
N25	Drake	D30	Eastern Illinois	J24	Ohio State	F18	at Ohio State
N29	Louisville*	J3	at Missouri	J28	at Michigan	F25	Illinois
D2	Wis.-Green Bay	J7	Purdue	J31	Penn State	F28	Minnesota
D5-6	Hawkeye Chall.	J10	Northwestern	F4	at Michigan State	M3	at Northwestern
D9	at Northern Iowa	J13	at Minnesota	F7	at Indiana	M6	at Purdue
		J17	at Illinois	F11	Wisconsin		*at Indianapolis
							**at Dallas

9. Minnesota

WHAT WE LIKE: Fifth-year senior Michael Bauer. He leads the league in hair and ranks near the top in blocked shots and 3-point shooting (37.4 percent). Bauer is joined by guard/forward Maurice Hargrow, the leading returning scorer at 13.2 ppg. There's a strong cast of reserves and role players, too, including local transfers Ben Johnson and guard Adam Boone, who was a starter at North Carolina in 2001-02. Boone sat out last year because of NCAA transfer rules but should make an impact.

WHAT SCARES US: The loss of Rick Rickert, who flew the coop early to be a late second-round NBA draft pick, and Jerry Holman. Rickert slogged through a disappointing sophomore season, but if he had stayed in school, he again would have been a candidate for league player of the year. Holman led the conference by shooting nearly 60 percent and was an intimidating shot blocker. Though talent and depth remain from last season, Minnesota must find a third scoring option and shore up its defense and free-throw shooting after ranking 10th in the Big Ten in both categories last season. Guard Wesley Washington, the team's top freshman recruit, was expected to compete for a backcourt spot and be a factor on defense, but he didn't make it into school.

X-FACTOR: Kris Humphries, a 6-8 power forward who averaged 25.4 points as a high school senior. He initially signed with Duke but reconsidered and was released from his scholarship. The Gophers caught a break when the NCAA restored his eligibility instead of requiring him to sit out because of transfer rules. Humphries is an impact player. At 240 pounds, he's rugged enough to battle underneath the basket but also can step out on the perimeter or blow by defenders off the dribble. If he delivers, the Gophers might post an upper-division finish.

Golden Gophers data

Coach: Dan Monson (67-57, 4 years; 119-74 overall, 6 years; NCAA Tournament 3-1).
Assistant coaches: Mike Peterson (4 years), Bill Walker (4), Vic Couch (1).
2002-03 record: 19-14. Big Ten:

8-8/T6th. Lost to Georgetown in NIT semifinal.
Last regular-season title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Minneapolis.
Home court: Williams Arena (14,625).
Website: www.gophersports.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter											
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%	
41	F	Michael Bauer*	6-8/220	Sr.	11.6	5.0	2.3	41.8	68.8	37.4	
24	F	Tyree Bolden	6-5/186	Sr.	0.9	0.9	0.1	40.0	75.0	—	
31	G	Adam Boone	6-2/202	Jr.	Transfer from North Carolina.						
35	F	Randy Chall	6-5/215	Sr.	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	—	—	
21	F	Stan Gaines	6-7/230	So.	1.9	1.7	0.6	34.9	57.9	15.4	
42	C	Jeff Hagen	6-11/265	Jr.	4.2	3.0	0.6	44.7	75.0	—	
11	G/F	Maurice Hargrow*	6-4/193	Jr.	13.2	4.9	2.9	44.6	68.8	39.8	
5	G	Wade Hokenson	5-9/170	Sr.	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	
32	F	Kris Humphries	6-8/240	Fr.	Signed with Duke, then changed mind.						
22	G	Ben Johnson	6-3/185	Sr.	6.2	2.9	1.9	41.8	82.0	35.7	
15	C	Aliou Kane	6-9/243	Fr.	Redshirted last season.						
34	G	Brent Lawson	6-4/200	Jr.	1.2	0.6	0.2	35.7	100.0	25.0	
	G/F	Jordan Nuness	6-4/185	Fr.	Joins the team as a walk-on.						
3	G	Aaron Robinson	5-10/165	Jr.	2.0	1.4	1.3	36.6	50.0	38.7	
55	F	Matt Smruga	6-8/255	Jr.	0.1	1.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	—	
33	F	Kerry Wooldridge	6-7/195	Fr.	Averaged 16.0 ppg, 8.0 rpg as H.S. senior.						

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Kevin Burleson*	6-3/185	6.7	3.2	4.8	37.0	72.9	34.6
F	Steve Esselink	6-6/195	3.9	1.7	0.5	35.2	66.7	33.3
C	Jerry Holman*	6-10/222	9.9	5.4	0.8	59.1	67.1	—
F	Rick Rickert*	6-11/216	15.8	6.4	1.1	44.3	68.5	34.6

Schedule

D9 Long Beach St.	J7 at Penn State	J28 Michigan St.	F18 at Indiana
N17-28 Preseason NIT	D12 Oral Roberts	J10 Princeton	J31 at Northwestern
N19 Georgia State	D22 Duquesne	J13 Iowa	F4 at Wisconsin
N30 Furman	D29 Nebraska	J17 at Ohio State	F8 Illinois
D3 at Virginia	J1 at Texas Tech	J21 at Purdue	F11 Michigan
D6 W. Illinois	J4 Wofford	J24 Indiana	F14 at Michigan St.

10. Northwestern

WHAT WE LIKE: The steady, heady play of Jitum Young, who has started all 88 games in his Wildcats career. Young often seemed like the Lone Ranger on a losing horse last season, leading the team in scoring 12 times and in rebounding on 10 occasions. Sophomore point guard T.J. Parker—the younger brother of San Antonio Spurs star Tony Parker—is quick enough to push the tempo and create a few easy baskets for a team desperately in need of scoring—it's 62.6 average last season was the league's worst. Coach Bill Carmody is a sharp strategist who has squeezed the most from limited resources with a methodical ball-control, back-cutting offense and rugged defense.

WHAT SCARES US: Northwestern's stingy defense slipped last season, and its free throw shooting (69.8 percent) was the worst in the Big Ten—not good signs for a squad that relies on sweat and fundamentals. The biggest worry is a frontcourt that was last in the league in rebounding. Vedran Vukusic, Davor Duvancic and Ivan Tolic will be counted on to carry the load. But Vukusic and Tolic both are returning from injuries that sidelined them all of last season. Can they compete in the bruising Big Ten? What's more, Young and reserve Patrick Towne are the only seniors on a team that didn't win a league road game last season.

X-FACTOR: Vukusic. Carmody calls him the Wildcats' best player. When Vukusic, a smooth-shooting perimeter player cut from the European mold, injured his shoulder before last season, it tossed the team into chaos. If Vukusic develops as an offensive threat, the Wildcats will have a solid shot to improve on last year's 3-13 league mark. But Carmody knows his team doesn't have the depth to weather any significant injuries.

Wildcats data

Coach: Bill Carmody (39-49, 3 years; 131-74 overall, 7 years; NCAA Tournament 1-2).
Assistant coaches: Paul Lee (3 years), Mitch Henderson (3), Craig Robinson (3).
2002-03 record: 12-17. Big Ten:

3-13/10th.
Last regular-season title: 1933.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Evanston, Ill.
Home court: Welsh-Ryan Arena (8,117).
Website: www.nusports.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter										
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
31	F	Davor Duvancic	6-8/220	Jr.	2.8	1.8	0.9	49.1	72.4	66.7
14	G	Mohamed Hachad	6-5/180	So.	4.3	2.1	1.5	38.9	40.6	24.4
1	G	T.J. Parker*	6-2/165	So.	11.4	2.7	2.7	45.2	78.5	38.7
24	G	Evan Seacat	6-2/180	So.	3.3	0.6	0.3	33.3	85.7	31.8
52	C	Vince Scott	6-10/230	Fr.	A big man who can distribute the ball.					
10	F	Ivan Tolic	6-9/255	So.	Redshirted to recover from injury.					
43	F	Patrick Towne	6-5/220	Sr.	Practice squad player got minutes in four games.					
11	F	Vedran Vukusic	6-8/230	Jr.	Redshirted to recover from injury.					
25	G	Jitum Young*	6-2/195	Sr.	13.4	5.1	2.2	48.6	63.7	31.5

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Winston Blake*	6-5/205	7.3	3.9	2.0	33.3	68.3	24.0
G	Jason Burke*	6-8/210	6.9	3.6	2.7	42.1	74.7	33.8
C	Aaron Jennings*	6-11/240	11.3	4.6	1.9	45.2	78.9	35.2

Schedule

D20 Illinois-Chicago	J28 at Penn State	F28 at Illinois
N21 Florida A&M	D27-28 SunClassic*	J31 Minnesota
N23 Chicago State	J3 Middle Tennessee	F4 at Ohio State
N25 at DePaul	J7 at Michigan	F7 Wisconsin
N29 Northwestern St.	J10 at Iowa	F11 at Purdue
D1 at Florida State	J14 Illinois	F14 Penn State
D6 Bowling Green	J17 at Indiana	F21 at Michigan State
D17 Arizona State	J21 Michigan State	F25 Indiana

11. Penn State

WHAT WE LIKE: Finding positives is a tough task for a team that won seven games last year, had its coach (Jerry Dunn) resign and lost its two leading scorers (Brandon Watkins to graduation and Sharif Chambliss to Wisconsin). At least there is the requisite optimism that accompanies a fresh start and a fresh coaching face. Well, Ed DeChellis isn't all that fresh in Happy Valley, where he served as an assistant for 10 years before taking the head coaching job at East Tennessee State. DeChellis returns to take up the eternal struggle to get Penn State fans to remember there is another sport between bowl season and spring football. Junior Jan Jagla and sophomore DeForrest Riley will lead the Lions inside and out.

WHAT SCARES US: It's all fairly frightening, really. DeChellis inherits a bunch that ranked at or near the bottom of the Big Ten in nearly every statistical category. And that was with Chambliss and Watkins, who combined for 28.4 of Penn State's 63.1 points per game last year. The Nittany Lions are left with little experience and almost no depth in the backcourt, where sophomore Brandon Cameron and freshmen Ben Luber and Marlon Smith will run the show. Jagla and Aaron Johnson, a former walk-on whom DeChellis granted a scholarship, will struggle to carry the load in the frontcourt.

X-FACTORS: How will a fresh-faced backcourt respond to the rugged play of the Big Ten? It's tough to learn on the job in this league. Also, where will this team find points? DeChellis, whose East Tennessee team averaged 82.3 points last season, plans to press, trap and do everything within his power to create offense from his defense. Problem is, you must score in the first place to set up a hounding press.

Nittany Lions data

Coach: Ed DeChellis (1st year; 105-93 overall, 7 years; NCAA Tournament 0-1).

Assistant coaches: Kurt Kanaskie (1st year), James Johnson (1st), Hilliary Scott (1st).

2002-03 record: 7-21. Big Ten:

2-14/11th.

Last regular-season title: 1991 (Atlantic 10).

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: State College, Pa.

Home court: Bryce Jordan Center (15,261).

Website: www.gopsusports.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
2	G	Brandon Cameron	6-0/171	So.	1.7	1.1	1.3	24.2	70.6	30.8
44	F	Ndu Egekeze	6-6/230	Sr.	2.5	1.5	0.2	46.9	67.6	0.0
24	C	Kevin Fellows	6-10/244	Jr.	1.0	0.6	0.2	39.1	57.1	—
12	G/F	Rob Fletcher	6-5/210	Sr.	Walk-on	practiced with team last season.				
22	F	Jan Jagla*	7-0/232	Jr.	9.3	6.8	0.9	39.8	65.2	11.6
0	F	Aaron Johnson	6-9/240	So.	8.2	7.5	0.5	36.6	70.1	—
25	C	John Kelley	6-11/250	Fr.	N.J. native	brings good size to roster.				
3	G	Ben Luber	6-0/160	Fr.	His on-the-job training	could be harsh.				
45	F	Jason McDougald	6-9/205	Jr.	2.2	1.0	0.2	51.7	58.8	—
33	G/F	DeForrest Riley*	6-6/200	So.	7.9	2.4	2.0	40.3	90.0	40.0
20	G	Marlon Smith	6-0/186	Fr.	Played at NYC's famed Archbishop Molloy.					
21	C	Robert Summers*	6-11/232	So.	3.9	4.0	0.4	50.6	70.3	—
1	G/F	Jamaal Tate	6-5/220	Sr.	2.6	1.4	1.2	16.1	—	20.0

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Sharif Chambliss*	6-1/175	14.7	2.0	1.9	38.7	90.1	38.4
G	Brandon Watkins*	6-1/160	13.7	2.8	3.7	43.9	75.4	24.5

Schedule

N23 Georgetown	D13 at Temple	J21 at Illinois	F18 at Michigan
N26 St. Francis (Pa.)	D20 St. Francis (N.Y.)	J24 Michigan	F21 Illinois
N29 at Buffalo	D28-29 Lobo Invitational*	J28 Northwestern	F25 at Wisconsin
D3 Cleveland State	J3 Bucknell	J31 at Iowa	F28 Michigan State
D6 at Pittsburgh	J7 Minnesota	F4 Purdue	M3 at Ohio State
D10 Rutgers	J10 Ohio State	F11 Indiana	M6 at Minnesota
	J14 at Michigan State	F14 at Northwestern	*at Albuquerque, N.M.

TSNumber 12

Games in which Daniel Horton led Michigan in both points and assists during his freshman season. Horton, who averaged 15.2 points and 4.5 assists, is one of only two of the Big Ten's top 10 scoring leaders who returns this season (fellow sophomore Bracey Wright of Indiana is the other). Horton, who beat out Wright and Illinois' Dee Brown for Big Ten Freshman of the Year, also set a freshman school record for 3-pointers, with 74.



Daniel Horton

PACIFIC-10

Andre Iguodala



2002-03 team statistics

Offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Arizona	32	46.1	70.9	35.3	42.9	17.8	8.6	4.3	14.6	85.2
Oregon	33	45.8	77.4	38.6	36.1	17.2	8.0	2.8	15.3	81.5
Arizona State	32	48.2	67.4	32.4	36.3	15.8	5.4	4.3	13.7	77.0
USC	30	41.7	69.9	32.3	38.6	13.7	9.2	3.5	14.9	76.5
UCLA	29	46.0	69.7	37.0	36.6	14.6	5.6	3.2	16.1	75.2
California	31	46.6	68.1	37.4	35.3	15.7	6.6	2.8	14.0	74.2
Stanford	33	44.2	67.8	35.6	38.8	14.6	5.4	3.6	14.2	72.5
Washington	27	43.4	66.4	34.1	34.4	13.6	6.5	2.9	15.7	72.4
Washington State	27	40.5	70.4	35.9	35.5	13.9	5.7	3.0	16.1	70.6
Oregon State	28	42.1	68.6	30.0	36.5	13.6	5.4	3.5	13.7	68.0

Defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Stanford	33	40.7	71.1	30.6	33.5	11.4	6.5	2.2	12.9	67.6
Oregon State	28	42.8	68.3	35.5	36.4	13.6	6.4	2.8	13.8	68.4
California	31	43.4	68.2	33.8	34.3	16.0	5.8	2.7	14.8	70.0
Arizona State	32	44.7	69.3	33.8	32.2	13.9	5.8	3.9	15.3	70.5
Arizona	32	40.7	64.3	32.1	36.5	15.5	6.3	2.6	16.7	70.7
Oregon	33	42.2	70.5	34.9	36.9	11.6	6.5	3.5	16.7	73.5
Washington	27	45.3	70.8	33.0	37.4	14.7	6.8	4.3	17.4	75.0
USC	30	45.3	70.1	34.0	38.1	15.5	6.2	3.3	18.2	76.6
UCLA	29	44.0	71.2	36.7	36.2	15.7	6.4	2.3	13.8	78.6
Washington State	27	47.6	70.2	36.4	38.2	15.0	7.0	3.4	14.2	78.8

A new season brings a different definition of the transition game

Transition basketball. It's something that has become identified with the Pac-10 because of its fast-breaking, uptempo teams and their high-scoring games. At the start of this season, though, transition basketball refers more to the new eras, anticipated arrivals and fresh starts within the conference.

The biggest makeover comes at UCLA with new coach Ben Howland. Bruins fans no longer will have to endure the massive swings of momentum within the program, nor the annual watch on Steve Lavin's job.

At Arizona, Luke Walton and Jason Gardner, who had become the identity of the program while winning 107 games together the last four years, are gone, leaving upstarts such as Andre Iguodala, Hassan Adams and Mustafa Shakur to complement juniors Salim Stoudamire and Channing Frye.

Oregon will continue to run, but the Ducks will have to do so without all-conference point guard Luke Ridnour; into his place steps McDonald's All-American Aaron Brooks. Arizona State will have to make do without almost all of Ike Diogu's supporting cast. Cal loses 35.5 combined points from Joe Shipp and Brian Wethers, but it welcomes a new era behind talented freshmen Leon Powe and Ayinde Ubaka.

Perhaps the most intriguing transition will occur at Washington State, where Dick Bennett has decided to resume his coaching career after retiring suddenly from Wisconsin in 2000. That makes the Cougars, for once, a team to watch.

ASCENDING: UCLA. The Bruins lack all the pieces, namely a proven point guard, to expect a complete turnaround from last season's 10-19 mark, which included a nine-game losing streak. But the embarrassment should be over, and much better days are ahead under Howland. His teams traditionally play unselfishly on offense and with extreme stinginess on defense. The Bruins need those kinds of things. They already have respectable talent, most notably wing Dijon Thompson, who was a

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Arizona	17	1	28	4
Stanford	14	4	24	9
California	13	5	22	9
Arizona State	11	7	20	12
Oregon	10	8	23	10
Oregon State	6	12	13	15
USC	6	12	13	17
UCLA	6	12	10	19
Washington	5	13	10	17
Washington State	2	16	7	20

Predictions

1. Arizona*
2. Stanford*
3. California*
4. Oregon*
5. Arizona State*
6. USC
7. UCLA
8. Washington State
9. Washington
10. Oregon State

*NCAA Tournament pick

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Marcus Moore, Washington St.	6-6	208	Sr.
G	Salim Stoudamire, Arizona	6-1	176	Jr.
F	Luke Jackson, Oregon	6-7	215	Sr.
F	Josh Childress, Stanford	6-8	200	Jr.
C	Ike Diogu, Arizona State	6-8	250	So.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Desmon Farmer, USC	6-5	220	Sr.
G/F	Dijon Thompson, UCLA	6-7	195	Jr.
F	Leon Powe, California	6-8	230	Fr.
F	Andre Iguodala, Arizona	6-6	200	So.
C	Channing Frye, Arizona	6-10	238	Jr.

Player spotlight

Player of the year

Ike Diogu

How far can one player carry a team? You can bet on this: back to the NCAA Tournament. Though he'll be surrounded by unproven players, Diogu is good enough to shoulder a massive load. He can draw big defenders out to 3-point range, but he's most feared inside. Diogu can score with either hand on a variety of moves in the lane,

and he's strong enough to finish when getting double-teamed. He's a no-nonsense player who always brings his best.

Newcomer of the year

Leon Powe

The Bears got most of their inside scoring last season from versatile, burly wings Joe Shipp and Brian Wethers. They will be missed, but the Bears welcome Powe, who is the most highly regarded Cal recruit since Shareef Abdur-Rahim. Powe is absolutely relentless. His interior scoring and rebounding will be key for a team that should shoot the ball exceptionally well. Look for Powe to be one of the top impact freshmen in the nation.

Most underrated

Matt Lottich, SG, Stanford

Bank on it: Lottich will be good for at least a couple of game-tying or game-winning shots in the final seconds. He's the kind of player who is content playing a complementary role for 39 minutes, but he wants to take that big shot with the clock winding down. Lottich is a dangerous shooter whose 6-4 frame enables him to extend over defenders. He also contributes as a secondary ballhandler and playmaker, which will help the Cardinal as it breaks in a new starter at point guard, sophomore Chris Hernandez.

bright spot amid last season's dark clouds. Howland is passionate about restoring the pride to UCLA; he knows how important those four letters are to college basketball.

DESCENDING: Washington. Lorenzo Romar knew he'd face difficulties when he returned to his alma mater, and the Huskies went 10-17 in his first year. Another season in that neighborhood is a good bet. And it may get worse after that. The Huskies landed on probation only one year into Romar's tenure because of recurring recruiting violations by his assistant Cameron Dollar. Though the probation doesn't disqualify them from postseason consideration—something they wouldn't have had to worry about anyway—and will cost them only one scholarship, it has put a stain next to an already tough rebuilding effort. Washington backers also are smarting because the program missed out on recent standouts from the Seattle area, most notably Lodrick and Rodrick Stewart, who are freshmen at Southern California; and Marvin Williams and Josh Heytvelt, high school seniors who committed to North Carolina and Gonzaga, respectively.

PLAYERS ON THE RISE:

1. Andre Iguodala, F, Arizona. Iguodala is ready to replace Walton as the Wildcats' do-everything, Swiss Army knife-type player. Walton, in fact, says Iguodala will be one of the best players to come out of Arizona, which is quite a compliment. Iguodala can fill whatever role the Wildcats need him to.

He's an unselfish player who defends—inside and out—passes and rebounds. He's still developing as a scorer, particularly as a perimeter shooter. But his athleticism and versatility should enable him to become a sound scoring option. Even if he doesn't score big, Iguodala will be a glue guy for Lute Olson.

2. Nate Robinson, G, Washington. Robinson is a tremendous athlete who started for the Huskies' football team at cornerback as a freshman, then moved on to the basketball team and started the final 10 games. Robinson will concentrate on basketball full-time now, and that's a good thing for a Huskies team that needs good news. Robinson is quick and a tremendous leaper—he can dunk despite being 5-8. Though Robinson is only a so-so perimeter shooter, he is a natural scorer who brings an electrifying presence to the court.

3. Richard Midgley, G, California. With the arrival of Ubaka at point guard, Midgley will get to focus on what he does best: shoot. Midgley made 44.9 percent of his 3-point tries as a freshman. On a team that also features Ubaka, Powe and Amit Tamir, Midgley should find enough space to become one of the nation's top 3-point shooters. He has proved to be a clutch performer; Midgley hit a 3-pointer in the final seconds to beat N.C. State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament last season. **TSN**

E-mail associate editor Kyle Veltrop at kveltrop@sportingnews.com.

RANKING THE 2003 RECRUITING CLASSES

By Mike Sullivan, Rivals.com

- 1. California.** Leon Powe is a rugged, no nonsense power forward who gets things done around the basket. Ayinde Ubaka should contribute immediately. Marquise Kately could help on the wing.
- 2. Oregon.** Aaron Brooks can step in immediately at the point for the departed Luke Ridnour. Aggressive big man Mitch Platt and developing pivot Ray Schafer should form the Ducks' frontcourt of the future.
- 3. Arizona.** Mustafa Shakur is a great point guard. Kirk Walters should become a solid frontcourt player.
- 4. Arizona State.** Keith Wooden may join sophomore Ike Diogu in one of league's top young frontcourts.
- 5. USC.** Lodrick and Rodrick Stewart add athleticism to backcourt. Quinton Day could be a stabilizer.
- 6. Oregon State.** Though undersized, Jim Hanchett should step in immediately and be a top rebounder.
- 7. Stanford.** Tim Morris should get minutes in a deep backcourt. Evan Moore is a rugged forward.
- 8. Washington.** Tre Simmons faces academic uncertainty. Hakeem Rollins is a heralded big man.
- 9. Washington State.** Jeff Varem can help out at several positions. Justin Garcia has injury issues.
- 10. UCLA.** Forward Trevor Ariza is a nice catch at 6-8 but will help only so much as a freshman.

Best bets

1. Cal PF Amit Tamir will continue to dazzle with his ability to shoot from long range and pass with precision, but he also will puzzle with his unwillingness to bang inside and rebound. Tamir is wonderfully gifted, but he's not as aggressive as someone who's 6-11 should be. Tamir supposedly committed himself to getting tougher inside, but that only will be talk until he proves it on the floor.

2. Arizona won't miss PG Jason Gardner. Gardner had a solid college career, but the

Wildcats will enjoy going in a new direction. Freshman PG Mustafa Shakur has better size and athleticism than Gardner, and, as a freshman, he will display better decision-making than Gardner did as a senior.

3. The trip to Pullman to play Washington State never has been an easy one for Pac-10 foes, but only from a logistical standpoint. Now, it also will be tough from a hardwood perspective. Any team that has Dick Bennett—especially a rejuvenated Dick Bennett—on the bench will be a hard out. Attracting talent still will be difficult, but Bennett doesn't even need that to win.

1. Arizona

WHAT WE LIKE: What the Wildcats lost in experience they gained in athletic ability. As savvy and effective as Jason Gardner, Luke Walton and Rick Anderson were, rangy replacements Andre Iguodala and Hassan Adams often were scarier for opponents last

season. This time, the Wildcats also have freshman point guard Mustafa Shakur, too. Like Gardner and Mike Bibby did, Shakur is expected to take over as point guard the first day of practice. He also could do something else Gardner and Bibby did: Lead Arizona to a Final Four. Shakur is wiry and not yet much of a scoring threat, but his skillful passing and distributor's mentality should complement a team with plenty of other scoring options. Salim Stoudamire can shift from shooting guard to back him up, but his shooting is too valuable to waste. Chris Rodgers is a better option behind Shakur if he can reduce excessive dribbling. At small forward, Adams and Iguodala are long, athletic players with unimposing jumpers. Adams is better around the basket, but Iguodala is a superior defender. In the post, Arizona can go with a mobile pairing of Channing Frye and Iguodala or a big combination with Frye and Isaiah Fox. Frye, an athletic shot blocker with a smooth touch, finished strong the last two seasons and is due for a breakout year. Still, he could stand to get tougher. Without forward Ndudi Ebi, a recruit who opted to declare for the NBA draft, the Wildcats also should have enough minutes to spread around and keep everyone happy. That wasn't the case last season, and

guard Will Bynum and forward Dennis Latimore transferred.

WHAT SCARES US: There's only one proven shooter, Stoudamire, and no proven leaders. With the three senior starters last season, no one else developed leadership skills. Plus, most of the veterans are relatively soft-spoken. Frye, a quiet but fiery competitor, has the most potential to lead the team; Shakur will be given every chance to take charge. As the Wildcats learned so painfully in an Elite Eight loss to Kansas last season, they can't survive against the best teams when Stoudamire's shot or focus is off. He often slipped into self-absorbed funks last season. Even though he has defensive ability and other offensive skills to help when his shot is off, Stoudamire often found himself on the bench when coach Lute Olson decided his attitude was too cancerous to keep him on the floor. The post will be thin now that Ebi bolted for the NBA and redshirt freshman Chris Dunn transferred to a junior college, though Dunn is attempting to become eligible for spring semester. But Fox reported at 269 pounds this fall, indicating that he is motivated. The Wildcats coaches have been harping on Fox's weight since he stepped foot on campus at well over 270 pounds two years ago. Lightly recruited freshman Kirk Walters had a strong senior high school season after signing with Arizona and could help inside but probably is too slender to make an immediate impact. If the roster were more complete, he'd be an ideal redshirt candidate. But the Wildcats probably will not be able to afford that luxury.

X-FACTOR: Depth is an annual feast-or-famine issue at Arizona, and this season the Wildcats will be severely malnourished if anybody gets hurt. Less than a year after Bynum and Latimore left because they couldn't find enough playing time on the loaded 2002-03 team, this season's Wildcats suddenly are down to eight scholarship players because of the three seniors' departure, Dunn's transfer and Ebi's no-show. Eight is enough for a typically tight Olson rotation—the 1997 Wildcats won the national title with only Jason Terry and two unheralded subs on the bench—but not nearly enough if injuries strike. The 1999-2000 Wildcats entered that season similarly thin, showed promise but ultimately struggled with only six or seven scholarship players usually available. The team was bounced out of the NCAA Tournament in the second round.

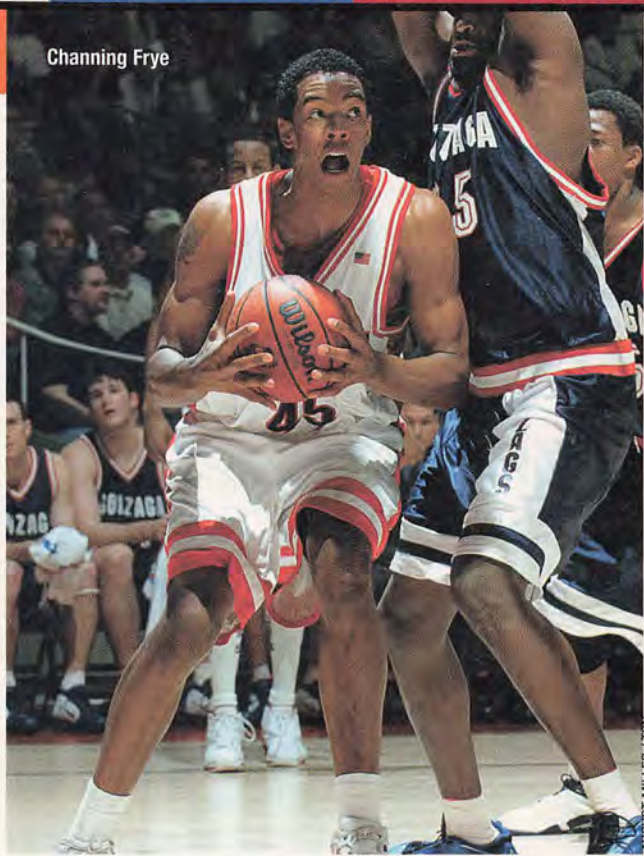
Schedule

N24	Northern Arizona
N28	Florida*
D6	at Saint Louis
D10	at Texas
D13	Marquette
D17	Saint Mary's
D22	San Diego State
D28-30	Fiesta Classic**
J3	at Arizona State
J8	California
J10	Stanford
J15	at USC
J17	at UCLA
J22	Oregon State
J24	Oregon
J29	at Washington
J31	at Washington State
F5	at California
F7	at Stanford
F12	USC
F14	UCLA
F19	at Oregon
F21	at Oregon State
F26	Washington
F28	Washington State
M7	Arizona State

*at Springfield, Mass.

**at Tucson, Ariz.

Channing Frye



AUGUST MILLER / TSN

A Pac-10 coach says: They've got to find some leadership, kind of decide what their identity is going to be. With the team they have, I think they'll probably try to get up and down the floor a bit more, get out and pressure. Losing Ndudi Ebi hurts because they don't have that athletic four-man they've had. Will they play big with Isaiah Fox, or will they try Andre Iguodala some at the four? On our scouting report, we always say to be physical with Channing Frye. When it gets down to the nitty-gritty, will he bang with you? That's going to be an issue for him if they try to go small.

Wildcats data

Coach: Lute Olson (499-147, 20 years; 691-239 overall, 30 years; 42-24 NCAA Tournament; won NCAA title in 1997).

Assistant coaches: Jim Rosborough (14 years), Rodney Tention (6), Josh Pastner (1).

2002-03 record: 28-4. Pac-10:

17-1/1st. Lost to Kansas in NCAA West final.

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1984.

Site: Tucson, Ariz.

Home court: McKale Center (14,545).

Website: www.arizcats.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
21	G	Hassan Adams	6-4, 201	So.	9.1	3.4	0.5	49.0	78.7	20.6
2	C	Isaiah Fox	6-9, 269	Jr.	3.6	3.5	0.2	51.0	54.4	—
45	C	Channing Frye*	6-10, 238	Jr.	12.6	8.0	0.7	56.9	69.5	—
24	F	Andre Iguodala	6-6, 200	So.	6.4	4.9	2.0	38.1	67.0	20.5
14	G	Beau Muhlbach	6-4, 200	Fr.	Averaged 20.0 ppg in H.S. senior season.					
11	G	Jason Ranne	6-4, 195	Sr.	0.7	0.2	0.1	33.3	66.7	25.0
13	G	Chris Rodgers	6-3, 203	So.	2.5	0.9	0.9	25.8	72.3	26.7
15	G	Mustafa Shakur	6-3, 175	Fr.	Gatorade Pennsylvania player of the year.					
20	G	Salim Stoudamire*	6-1, 176	Jr.	13.0	1.9	1.8	47.3	86.4	44.4
12	G	Fil Torres	6-2, 195	Sr.	0.5	0.1	0.2	50.0	—	—
54	C	Kirk Walters	6-10, 215	Fr.	H.S. team went 27-0, won '03 state title.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Rick Anderson*	6-9/225	10.7	6.7	1.4	53.6	68.1	37.3
G	Jason Gardner*	5-10/191	14.8	4.0	4.9	39.2	77.6	33.2
F	Luke Walton*	6-8/245	10.8	5.6	5.0	42.0	67.8	38.4

2. Stanford

WHAT WE LIKE: The loss of only one key player entering this season—point guard Julius Barnes—is a happy luxury for a program that has struggled to overcome early NBA departures in recent years. Coach Mike Montgomery, who has guided the Cardinal to nine consecutive 20-win seasons and first-round NCAA Tournament victories, can go back to relying on his system and the experience of his players. He has two stars, forward Justin Davis and wing Josh Childress, and a load of skilled complementary players

who should help the Cardinal remain in the Top 25 most of the season. Childress is a silky smooth scorer who can shoot 3-pointers at a respectable rate and was the team's leading rebounder last season despite weighing only 200 pounds. Davis, who was hobbled last season because of left knee problems, gives the Cardinal athleticism, scoring and rebounding in the post, and guard Matt Lottich began developing into a top shooter last season. But the ball and leadership will start with Chris Hernandez, the sophomore point guard who broke his foot twice last season but would have started otherwise. Hernandez has a swagger about him despite his lack of experience. The Cardinal also has good size inside with Rob Little, Joe Kirchofer and Matt Haryasz. Stanford replaces departed wide receiver/forward Teyo Johnson with tight end/forward Evan Moore, a good athlete who enjoys contact. The Cardinal should get him nearly full-time as a freshman because he's expected to redshirt in football.

WHAT SCARES US: That springy, trampoline-like floor still will be bouncing inside Maples Pavilion for at least another year, though renovations after this season might include a more stable replacement surface. The \$30 million remodeling project is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of the Pac-10 season in 2004-05. That means those who blame the floor for the Cardinal's foot and knee injuries of recent seasons—

even ex-Arizona star Richard Jefferson broke his foot at Maples—will have to hold their breath to see if Hernandez and Davis can stay healthy. Hernandez's foot is of particular concern because he broke it twice last season and has no certain backup this season. Last season, the Cardinal survived by moving Barnes to the point, but there's no easy solution this time. Davis also needs to stay healthy because the Cardinal doesn't have much reliable post depth or scoring. Stanford is expecting Little to retain his starting center job, but he has battled weight problems and needs to muscle up on the boards. Aside from Lottich and Childress, there aren't a lot of proven shooters. Dan Grunfeld, son of former NBA player Ernie Grunfeld, and Nick Robinson, a 24-year-old wing player, could develop into threats. Athletic guard Tim Morris probably is the best freshman coming in but isn't expected to contribute much right away as a backup shooting guard. It's hardly unusual for a freshman mostly to sit and learn during his first season under Montgomery, but the question is whether Montgomery's recruiting has lost any steam following the boom that accompanied Stanford's 1998 appearance in the Final Four.

X-FACTOR: Low expectations, created by the early loss of Curtis Borchardt and Casey Jacobsen, served as a rallying point for the Cardinal last season, and the team pulled together to win 24 games and finish second in the Pac-10. Now, the Cardinal will be nationally ranked and won't have the same chip-on-the-shoulder mentality that fueled last season's closeness. Stanford usually has a soft early schedule that helps it rise in the rankings, too, but this season the Cardinal must face Kansas in the Wooden Classic at Anaheim and Gonzaga in the Pete Newell Challenge at Oakland. Those games should keep the Cardinal's collective heads out of the clouds and keep it hungry entering the Pac-10 schedule. Also, the Cardinal plays five of its final seven Pac-10 games on the road.

Schedule

N22	Sacramento State
N25	at UC Irvine
N30	at Rice
D6	Kansas*
D13	UNLV
D15	Florida International
D20	Gonzaga**
D22	Southern Utah
D28	Harvard
J2	Washington State
J4	Washington
J8	at Arizona State
J10	at Arizona
J17	California
J22	UCLA
J24	USC
J29	at Oregon State
J31	at Oregon
F5	Arizona State
F7	Arizona
F14	at California
F19	at USC
F21	at UCL
F26	Oregon State
F28	Oregon
M4	at Washington State
M6	at Washington

*at Anaheim
**at Oakland



Matt Lottich

ALBERT DICKSON/TSN

A Pac-10 coach says: They're always fundamentally sound. They understand and accept their roles. They're going to play within that system and not do anything they're not accustomed to doing. Josh Childress will be better. He'll be a go-to guy. They did that a little last year with Julius Barnes, but Childress can do more. If they can get another scorer, a shooter—if Matt Lottich steps up and helps them—that would be big. Chris Hernandez is solid at the point, if he's healthy. We'll get out and pressure him, though. He doesn't have great speed. I don't think they'll be as quick.

Cardinal data

Coach: Mike Montgomery (363-165, 17 years; 517-241 overall, 25 years; NCAA Tournament 15-11).

Assistant coaches: Eric Reveno (6 years), Tony Fuller (4), Russell Turner (2).

2002-03 record: 24-9. Pac-10: 14-4/2nd. Lost to Connecticut in

NCAA South second round.

Last regular-season title: 2001.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.

Site: Palo Alto, Calif.

Home court: Maples Pavilion (7,391).

Website: www.gostanford.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
1	F/G	Josh Childress*	6-8/200	Jr.	14.1	8.1	2.1	42.7	71.9	33.3
22	F	Justin Davis*	6-9/225	Sr.	10.3	7.8	1.4	55.2	59.1	0.0
20	G	Dan Grunfeld	6-6/210	So.	3.7	1.2	0.6	42.9	77.8	39.0
32	G	Jason Haas	6-2/180	So.	0.8	0.6	1.0	25.9	78.6	25.0
52	F	Matt Haryasz	6-10/215	So.	1.8	1.7	0.2	50.0	60.0	0.0
11	G	Chris Hernandez	6-2/190	Jr.	1.0	0.5	2.5	0.0	100.0	0.0
00	F	Joe Kirchofer	6-9/245	Sr.	2.3	1.9	0.2	55.8	75.0	0.0
42	C	Rob Little*	6-10/275	Jr.	8.8	5.7	0.9	56.9	54.6	0.0
33	G	Matt Lottich*	6-4/205	Sr.	11.3	2.9	3.2	38.7	69.2	38.2
15	G/F	Evan Moore	6-7/235	Fr.	Late California recruit.					
10	G	Tim Morris	6-4/204	Fr.	All-state player had 24.0 ppg, 11.0 rpg.					
21	F/G	Nick Robinson	6-6/200	Jr.	4.5	4.2	1.3	47.7	51.5	27.3
44	F	Fred Washington	6-5/200	Fr.	Named CIF Division III Player of the Year.					
21	G	Carlton Weatherby	5-11/165	So.	0.4	0.1	0.1	50.0	0.0	100.0

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Julius Barnes*	6-1/185	16.0	2.8	3.9	37.8	81.6	35.0

3. California

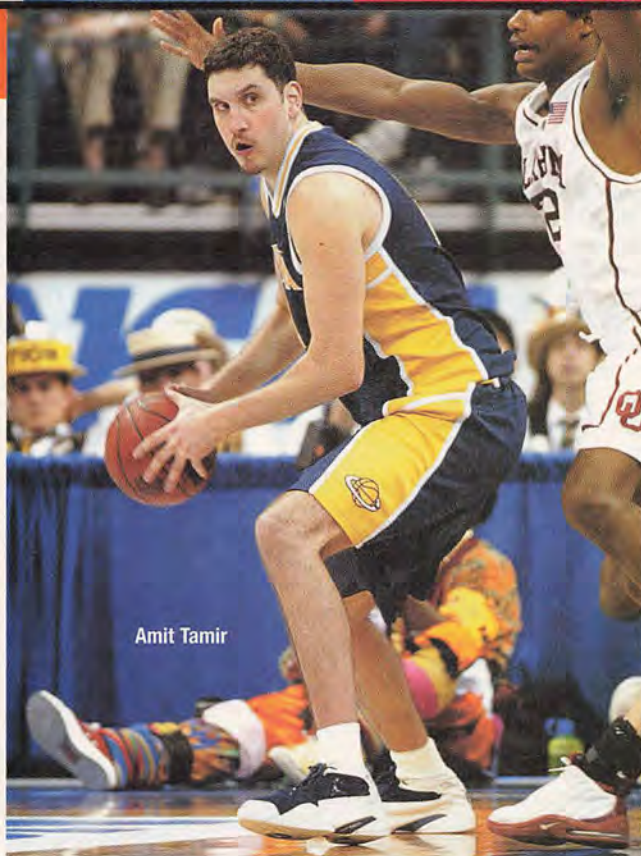
WHAT WE LIKE: Even without their two top scorers from last season—Joe Shipp, who led the Pac-10 with a 20.4 average, and Brian Wethers—the Bears are loaded with talent that returns from a team that equaled the school's all-time best league record (13-5) last season. Top recruits Leon Powe (inside) and Ayinde Ubaka (point guard) join often unguardable forward Amit Tamir in a new core. And there are plenty of experienced, able role players around them. The Bears should have enough depth inside with Gabriel Hughes,

Powe and sophomore David Paris, the son of former 49ers offensive tackle Bubba Paris, to allow Tamir to play small forward, at least offensively, where his height and perimeter skills make him a tough matchup. Powe is a tough, aggressive rebounder who has a knack for scoring around the basket, and Hughes is an able shot blocker who has plenty of room for improvement. The athletic, long-armed Ubaka gives Cal a true point guard it lacked last season. At shooting guard, the Bears return an effective combination of Richard Midgley's shooting and A.J. Diggs' defense. Midgley, a disciplined, unselfish player who is fearless when it comes to taking the big shot, should be more effective there on a full-time basis. Diggs is a scrappy defender who averaged almost two steals per game last season despite averaging just 20 minutes, but he isn't much of an offensive threat. Outside shooting still should be a strength without Shipp, Cal's third all-time leading scorer, and Wethers. Midgley hit 45 percent of his 3-pointers last season en route to being selected to the Pac-10 All-Freshman team, and Tamir connected on 39 percent. A third freshman, Dominic McGuire, adds versatility on the wing. This is a young, dynamic

team that could grow up enough to challenge for a fourth consecutive 20-win season and Sweet 16 berth.

WHAT SCARES US: Tamir's defense can hurt almost as much as his offense helps. Though he's best at small forward offensively, he can't guard the position well, forcing the Bears to run hybrid zones and switch his assignment. Inside, he's a better defender but not a solid post scorer. Tamir will be more effective if he can play less than the 34 minutes he averaged last season because he became worn down. Hughes must stay on the floor longer and avoid silly fouls that plagued him last season. He led the team in fouls despite averaging less than 14 minutes. Rod Benson can be an adequate defender and rebounder but still needs to gain strength to make a significant impact. Jordi Geli is a European guard disguised in a 6-10 body. Marquise Kately, a product of San Francisco via Maine Central Institute, should help on the wing. When Tamir doesn't play small forward, the Bears could get help from McGuire or sophomore Erik Bond, a smart player who has a decent touch. Mostly, though, Cal needs scoring. More than 35 points per game were lost with the departure of Shipp and Wethers. Although there are other shooters on the roster, Tamir and Midgley are the only players who have proved they can provide scoring at this level.

X-FACTOR: The season will rest on the shoulders of Powe and Ubaka, Cal's most significant Oakland-area recruits since Jason Kidd. Each received McDonald's and Parade All-American honors. Powe gives the Bears a solid, aggressive rebounder inside who also can make up some of the scoring load that was lost by creating his own offense around the basket. If Powe can establish himself inside, that leaves Tamir freer to play on the wing. And if Ubaka takes over smoothly at point guard, the Bears can keep Midgley and Diggs at shooting guard, where their skills are best suited. Though Ubaka is a true point guard, he also has scoring potential. Both freshmen are expected to start immediately, though Ubaka might face the most difficult adjustment given the demands of playing the point.



Amit Tamir

DILIP VISHWANATH/TSN

A Pac-10 coach says: I think they will be more inside-oriented than last year. With Leon Powe and Amit Tamir, they're pretty good. They'll be more halfcourt than they've been. In the past, they've had good athletes and tried to get up and down, but that won't be their strength this year. Tamir is a tough matchup. With Powe, they can have a good high-low. On the block, he's almost automatic. They do a lot of switching on defense. They'll switch anything, almost. Little on big, big on little. Losing Brian Wethers and Joe Shipp, they don't have those stoppers, guys who can guard multiple positions.

Golden Bears data

Coach: Ben Braun (140-79, 7 years; 473-314 overall, 26 years; NCAA Tournament 7-7).

Assistant coaches: Louis Reynaud (5 years), Joe Pasternack (2).

2002-03 record: 22-9. Pac-10: 13-5/3rd. Lost to Oklahoma in NCAA

East second round.

Last regular-season title: 1960.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Berkeley, Calif.

Home court: Haas Pavilion (11,877).

Website: www.calbears.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
0	F/C	Rod Benson	6-10/195	So.	0.8	0.8	0.1	50.0	33.3	—
30	F	Erik Bond	6-7/215	So.	1.8	1.1	0.5	33.3	20.0	30.6
2	G	A.J. Diggs	5-9/175	Sr.	3.2	2.1	2.0	32.9	60.3	12.5
40	F	Conor Famulener	6-6/230	Sr.	3.3	3.3	1.2	51.3	58.3	31.4
10	F	Jordi Geli	6-10/190	So.	0.5	0.3	0.3	50.0	—	—
33	C	Gabriel Hughes	6-11/230*	Sr.	3.0	3.4	0.3	51.4	48.6	—
	F	Marquise Kately	6-5/215	Fr.	One of nation's top 50 recruits can shoot.					
3	F	Dominic McGuire	6-7/195	Fr.	Considered top small forward in California.					
15	G	Richard Midgley*	6-1/200	So.	9.2	2.9	2.7	47.1	71.9	44.9
35	F	Steve Panawek	6-5/190	So.	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	F	David Paris	6-9/260	So.	1.7	1.7	0.1	46.5	22.7	—
44	F	Leon Powe	6-8/230	Fr.	One of the top 10 recruits in nation.					
20	G	Martin Smith	6-1/200	So.	0.7	0.4	0.8	44.4	50.0	—
24	F/C	Amit Tamir*	6-11/260	Sr.	14.9	6.5	3.0	41.0	80.0	39.4
1	G	Ayinde Ubaka	6-3/190	Fr.	Parade All-American is top athlete.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Joe Shipp*	6-5/220	20.4	6.1	2.3	51.9	75.9	35.4
G	Brian Wethers*	6-5/215	15.1	4.4	3.0	48.8	65.3	39.7

4. Oregon

WHAT WE LIKE: Luke Ridnour won't be turbocharging the fast break anymore, having left a year early, but Oregon will be more athletic. Lead-footed post players Robert Johnson and Brian Helquist are gone, likely to be replaced by quicker Ian Crosswhite and Matt Short. McDonald's All-American Aaron Brooks should step in at point guard for Ridnour, and sophomore Brandon Lincoln might be a factor if Brooks struggles. The offensive spotlight will shine solely on Luke Jackson, a durable, versatile wing forward. The team's undisputed go-to man, Jackson will be asked to pass more often, a role he's good at. Shooting guard is well covered, with James Davis providing the offense and Andre Joseph the defense.

WHAT SCARES US: The Ducks must get enough production from the two post spots to free Jackson for full-time duty at small forward. The loss of Johnson's 6.5 rebounds per game will be a concern. No returning post player averaged more than 3.8 rebounds last season, and Oregon ranked last in rebounding in the Pac-10. Jackson will have to get others involved more than ever. The team's top returning assists man, Jackson will have to find options when he's double-teamed. Despite the program's three NCAA Tournament appearances in the past four years, there's no guarantee of a return or a Pac-10 upper-division finish.

X-FACTOR: Crosswhite often was a matchup nightmare for opponents last season because of his height, athleticism and ability to shoot from the perimeter. But he also tended to disappear, sometimes for four or five consecutive games. If he can establish himself at power forward, he'll take pressure off Jackson and give the Ducks another go-to option.

5. Arizona State

WHAT WE LIKE: Ike, as in sophomore Ike Diogu. He'll be double- and triple-teamed but has the ability to handle it. Diogu is among the nation's top offensive post players; he has a strong midrange jumper and good around-the-basket skills. He scored in double figures every game last season and has new offensive threats around him. Shooting guard Steve Moore, redshirt freshman Serge Angounou and versatile Allen Morill could lure defenders off Diogu. Point guard Jason Braxton isn't a scoring threat but can make things happen with his ability to penetrate. The Sun Devils should make it back to the NCAA Tournament.

WHAT SCARES US: This is a team loaded with potential but with few proven players beside Diogu. Can Moore, Tron Smith or Kevin Kruger (Lon's son) add needed outside shooting? Can the athletic Angounou bounce back from reconstructive knee surgery and handle power forward, replacing the talented-but-unpredictable Tommy Smith? Will Morill or Jamal Hill step into a secondary go-to role at small forward? And who's the leader? Can reserve Justin Allen hit his 3-point shot enough to create a meaningful role? The Sun Devils could get leadership from 23-year-old Kenny Crandall, a veteran of Rob Evans' first Arizona State team in 1998-99, but there's no guarantee he'll get on the floor often.

X-FACTOR: Evans has been enamored with Morill ever since he did a strong defensive job on LeBron James two summers ago in camps. Last season, Morill was good enough in practice to win the starting role at small forward, but he sat out as a partial qualifier. Morill is a strong swing forward who can guard nearly any position and is athletic enough to play on the perimeter. He can hit the midrange jumper but isn't a 3-point threat.

Ducks data

Coach: Ernie Kent (117-68, 6 years; 207-148 overall, 12 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Assistant coaches: Scott Duncan (4 years), Fred Litzenberger (2), John Cooper (1).

2002-03 record: 23-10. Pac-10:

10-8/5th. Lost to Utah in NCAA Midwest first round.

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.

Site: Eugene, Ore.

Home court: McArthur Court (9,087).

Website: www.goducks.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
55	C	Jay Anderson	6-9/220	Sr.	2.3	1.6	0.4	37.7	66.7	15.0
30	G	Aaron Brooks	5-10/175	Fr.	Has been compared to Terrell Brandon.					
11	F	Ian Crosswhite	6-11/250	So.	9.3	3.8	0.8	51.9	74.4	41.8
1	G	James Davis*	5-10/175	Sr.	10.5	2.1	2.3	42.5	90.5	43.1
33	G/F	Luke Jackson*	6-7/215	Sr.	16.0	6.9	3.6	45.2	86.7	36.3
35	G	Andre Joseph	6-3/185	Sr.	7.6	3.0	1.8	40.8	66.9	34.8
2	G	Jordan Kent	6-5/200	Fr.	Redshirted for 2002-03 season.					
14	G	Brandon Lincoln	6-4/200	So.	2.4	0.8	0.5	38.2	47.4	38.2
3	F	Mitch Platt	6-10/260	Fr.	Skilled big man who can pass, run floor.					
45	C	Ray Schafer	7-0/230	Fr.	Diamond-in-rough Alaskan moves well.					
5	C	Matt Short	7-0/235	So.	2.8	2.2	0.2	63.1	38.1	00.0
15	G	Tyler York	5-11/180	So.	0.2	0.4	1.8	00.0	100.0	—
42	F	Adam Zahn	6-8/225	Fr.	Redshirted for 2002-03 season.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Robert Johnson*	6-8/250	7.6	6.5	1.0	58.1	66.7	100.0
C	Brian Helquist*	6-9/260	3.0	2.8	0.2	51.3	58.3	0.0
G	Luke Ridnour*	6-2/175	19.7	3.4	6.6	43.2	88.0	38.2

Schedule

D1	Portland State	J2	at USC	J29	California	F26	at California
D6	TBA*	J4	at UCLA	J31	Stanford	F28	at Stanford
D13	Kansas	J10	at Oregon State	F7	Oregon State	M4	USC
D17	Santa Clara	J15	Washington	F12	at Washington	M6	UCLA
D20	Alabama**	J17	Washington St.	F14	at Washington St.	*at Portland	
D22	at Portland	J22	at Arizona	F19	Arizona	**at Las Vegas	
		J24	at Arizona State	F21	Arizona State		

Sun Devils data

Coach: Rob Evans (80-72, 5 years; 166-153 overall, 11 years; NCAA Tournament 1-3).

Assistant coaches: Russ Pennell (5 years), Tony Benford (5), Dan O'Dowd (5).

2002-03 record: 20-12. Pac 10:

11-7/4th. Lost to Kansas in NCAA West second round.

Last regular-season title: 1975 (WAC).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Tempe, Ariz.

Home court: Wells Fargo Arena (14,088).

Website: www.thesundevils.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
24	G/F	Justin Allen	6-8/225	Sr.	0.9	0.7	0.1	28.6	0.0	31.2
50	F	Serge Angounou	6-8/240	Fr.	Redshirted with knee injury last year.					
1	G	Jason Braxton*	6-2/190	Jr.	4.6	2.6	2.3	38.6	47.7	20.0
12	G	Kenny Crandall	6-3/200	Sr.	2.4	0.9	0.8	32.1	85.0	29.2
5	F/C	Ike Diogu*	6-8/250	So.	19.0	7.8	0.8	60.8	73.5	37.5
34	F	Wilfried Fameni	6-7/230	Fr.	Good rebounder who can run the floor.					
22	G/F	Jamal Hill	6-5/190	Sr.	6.3	1.8	0.7	41.1	75.9	36.4
13	G	Kevin Kruger	6-1/175	Fr.	Lon's son expected to add depth at point.					
43	F	Chris Low	6-8/215	Fr.	Adds needed size to the frontcourt.					
21	G	Steve Moore	6-3/205	Jr.	JC transfer will help on the perimeter.					
0	F	Allen Morill	6-6/230	So.	Eligible after working on grades.					
23	G	Tron Smith	6-2/190	Fr.	Will make the backcourt even quicker.					
2	F/C	Keith Wooden	6-9/220	Fr.	Can play both the high and low post.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Donnell Knight*	6-7/200	5.3	3.8	1.3	47.8	57.1	0.0
G	Curtis Millage*	6-2/175	15.9	2.9	2.5	46.7	72.1	33.0
F	Shawn Redhage	6-7/225	8.3	3.8	1.8	49.5	70.2	45.5
F	Tommy Smith*	6-10/215	11.2	6.2	2.7	49.3	57.4	27.8

Schedule

N22	Ark.-Little Rock	D29-30	Hoops Classic	J22	Oregon State	F14	USC
N24	Cal State Fullerton	J3	Arizona	J29	Oregon	F19	at Oregon State
N29	UC Riverside	J8	Stanford	J31	at Washington St.	F21	at Oregon
D3	at Nebraska	J10	California	F5	at Stanford	F26	Washington St.
D9	Temple*	J15	at UCLA	F7	at California	F28	Washington
D17	at Northwestern	J17	at USC	F12	UCLA	M6	Arizona
							*at Phoenix

6. USC

WHAT WE LIKE: All five starters return from a young, athletic team. USC again will cause trouble for defenders with its blazing speed and coach Henry Bibby's complex offensive sets. Errick Craven and Desmon Farmer are explosive go-to factors, and Stewart twins Rodrick and Lodrick will add athleticism and versatility on the perimeter. Derrick Craven and freshman Quinton Day will compete for the point guard spot, and Roydell Smiley also will find time in the backcourt with his shooting and ballhandling ability. Inside, there's size—Rory O'Neil and Nick Curtis—and strength—Fordham transfer Jeff McMillan and football tight end Gregg Guenther. The Trojans could have enough to return to the upper half of the Pac-10 and the NCAA Tournament.

WHAT SCARES US: The 6-11 O'Neil has the second-best 3-point shooting percentage among returning starters. Not good. And it doesn't figure to get much better. The Trojans are terrific at beating defenders off the dribble. But they lack a great perimeter shooter, although the Stewart twins should help. On defense, the Trojans' athleticism masks the fact they're not great at defending the perimeter. USC also lost forward Jerry Dupree to academics.

X-FACTOR: The Trojans lacked a solid low-post anchor without Sam Clancy last season. They hope McMillan can provide a similar presence. Not a great shooter, McMillan is a strong, aggressive player who was one of the Atlantic 10's top rebounders two seasons ago. The Trojans have other good, strong players, and Guenther was a pleasant surprise last season after football season ended. But McMillan is the only player who can elevate the Trojans' offense by consistently creating his own scoring and collecting rebounds.

Trojans data

Coach: Henry Bibby (117-102, 7 years; NCAA Tournament 3-3).
Assistant coaches: Kurtis Townsend (2 years), Eric Brown (2).
2002-03 record: 13-17. Pac-10: 6-12/T6th.

Last regular-season title: 1985 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 2002.
Site: Los Angeles.
Home court: Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena (16,161).
Website: www.usctrojans.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
24	G	Derrick Craven*	6-2/200	Jr.	4.6	2.2	2.3	37.6	55.2	43.8
22	G	Errick Craven*	6-2/190	Jr.	13.0	5.3	2.6	40.7	66.0	26.0
2	G	Nick Curtis*	6-8/220	Jr.	6.6	5.3	0.7	45.9	67.5	25.0
44	G	Quinton Day	6-0/175	Fr.	Quick point man can score and defend.					
33	G	Desmon Farmer*	6-5/225	Sr.	18.7	4.8	1.8	40.1	82.8	32.3
5	F	Gregg Guenther	6-8/245	Jr.	6.2	5.0	0.9	43.4	64.1	—
4	F	Jeff McMillan	6-8/260	Jr.	Will fill void as much-needed rebounder.					
10	C	Jonathan Oliver	7-0/230	Sr.	2.3	1.6	0.1	64.0	58.8	—
21	C	Rory O'Neil*	6-11/240	Jr.	10.1	4.9	0.8	44.3	72.0	36.6
1	G	Roydell Smiley	6-4/195	Sr.	8.6	2.6	1.3	38.9	84.4	34.5
3	G	Lodrick Stewart	6-5/210	Fr.	Averaged 19.0 ppg, 6.0 rpg on state title team.					
23	G	Rodrick Stewart	6-5/200	Fr.	Tremendous athlete with nonstop motor.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Brandon Brooks	6-1/170	4.1	0.6	3.2	34.4	58.8	42.9
C	Kostas Charissis	6-11/260	2.7	3.6	0.8	42.9	54.5	—
F	Jerry Dupree	6-7/200	5.0	3.4	0.4	50.0	56.3	40.0
G	Robert Hutchinson	6-1/185	5.1	1.0	2.3	40.4	73.3	33.8

Schedule

D19 at Fresno State	J15 Arizona	F12 at Arizona
N21 at W. Michigan	D22 Cal Poly	J17 Arizona State
N30 Cal State Northridge	D28 Lafayette	J22 at California
D3 UNLV	J2 Oregon	J24 at Stanford
D6 at St. Mary's	J4 Oregon State	J28 at UCLA
D9 Cal State Fullerton	J8 at Washington	F5 Washington
D13 at Brigham Young	J10 at Washington St.	F7 Washington St.
		M6 at Oregon State

7. UCLA

WHAT WE LIKE: Ben Howland isn't a quick-fix artist—his first teams at Northern Arizona and Pittsburgh struggled before taking off—but he should bring much-needed stability to a chaotic, mercurial program that was run by Steve Lavin. Instead of five-for-five substitutions and walk-ons who start, roles will be more defined. Howland also has enough long, athletic talent to work with that the Bruins can compete for a spot in the league's upper division. Springy Ryan Hollins will start in the low post. Dijon Thompson is an explosive wing who can play inside if needed. Howland inherited two recruits who should help immediately: versatile athletic wing Trevor Ariza and North Carolina transfer Brian Morrison, a combo guard who can shoot.

WHAT SCARES US: This is a poor shooting team, especially without Jason Kapono. Turnovers and defense also have been big problems that don't figure to disappear. Around all that athleticism, the Bruins lack proven anchors at point guard, where Cedric Bozeman remains a talented question mark, and center. Morrison brings promise from the perimeter, but this is a team that will flourish best if it can slash its way through defenders and run. Power forward T.J. Cummings is expected to provide scoring but will miss at least three games because he is academically ineligible for the fall quarter. He will practice with the team and likely be able to play in December. Depth is thin.

X-FACTOR: Two years have passed, and it remains unclear what type of player Bozeman is. Is he a step slow and not cut out for the point guard role? Or, with good health, will he finally develop into the top-notch lead guard he's expected to be?

Bruins data

Coach: Ben Howland (1st year; 168-99 overall, 9 years; NCAA Tournament 4-3).
Assistant coaches: Donny Daniels (1st), Kerry Keating (1st), Ernie Zeigler (1st).

2002-03 record: 10-19. Pac-10: 6-12/T6th.
Last regular-season title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 2002.
Site: Los Angeles.
Home court: Pauley Pavilion (12,000).
Website: www.uclabruins.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
		Trevor Ariza	6-8/200	Fr.	Second-team Parade All-American.					
13	G	Gene Barnes	5-10/165	So.	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
21	G	Cedric Bozeman*	6-6/197	Jr.	7.3	3.0	0.1	40.8	51.4	31.3
5	G	Jon Crispin	6-0/195	Sr.	2.3	0.7	0.4	38.1	90.0	37.9
43	F	T.J. Cummings*	6-10/215	Sr.	10.3	4.9	0.6	45.5	81.3	11.1
45	C	Michael Fey	7-0/257	So.	2.3	1.6	0.2	55.2	65.0	0.0
55	G	Quinn Hawking	6-3/170	So.	0.8	0.2	—	25.0	25.0	50.0
52	C	John Hoffart	6-10/250	Sr.	0.6	—	—	50.0	50.3	—
15	C	Ryan Hollins	6-11/215	So.	4.3	3.5	0.2	59.4	49.1	0.0
54	F	Josiah Johnson	6-8/233	Jr.	1.8	1.8	0.1	36.4	85.7	30.8
4	F	Mercedes Lewis	6-6/245	So.	1.3	0.6	0.1	42.9	37.5	—
25	F	Matt McKinney	6-8/205	Fr.	Redshirted for 2002-03 season.					
50	G	Brian Morrison	6-2/250	Jr.	Sat out after transferring from UNC.					
2	G	Janou Rubin	6-3/192	Jr.	2.1	0.9	0.4	50.0	50.0	50.0
1	G/F	Dijon Thompson*	6-7/195	Jr.	16.8	5.2	2.0	45.7	88.0	39.8
10	G	Ryan Walcott	6-1/180	Jr.	3.9	1.7	3.3	33.0	68.3	31.1
22	G	Ike Williams	6-1/170	Fr.	Redshirted for 2002-03 season.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Jason Kapono*	6-8/213	16.8	5.2	2.0	45.7	88.0	39.8
F	Andre Patterson	6-7/197	7.5	5.5	0.9	60.8	51.9	0.0
G	Ray Young*	6-4/210	10.1	3.8	2.0	41.1	72.2	40.8

Schedule

J2 Oregon State	J28 USC	F25 at USC
N29 Vermont	J4 Oregon	F28 Notre Dame
D3 UC Riverside	J8 at Washington St.	F5 Washington St.
D6 Kentucky*	J10 at Washington	F7 Washington
D13 Loyola	J15 Arizona State	F12 at Arizona State
D17 UC Santa Barbara	J17 Arizona	F14 at Arizona
D20 Michigan State	J22 at Stanford	F19 California
D27 at Michigan	J24 at California	F21 Stanford

*at Anaheim

8. Washington State

WHAT WE LIKE: Marcus Moore's hasty return to Pullman after his NBA flirtation last spring was the best thing that could have happened to Dick Bennett. The talented Moore learned he needs a more complete game and better shooting, which should ensure he listens to a new coach who inevitably will expect more defense and passing. Bennett has two other big, talented guards in Thomas Kelati and Randy Green. Kelati was a good defender and 46-percent 3-point shooter who picked up point guard experience last season when Moore underwent ankle surgery. Green is an attractive option as a third guard. Junior college transfer Jeff Varem, who's easily the best athlete up front, should be an effective power forward.

WHAT SCARES US: Bennett will shudder at times when he sees what kind of interior defenders he has. Wazzu must get good minutes from backup centers Justin Bellegarde and Justin Garcia because starting center Ezenwa Ukeagu lacks stamina. The potential for post scoring isn't great. One of the team's best scorers last season, Chris Schlatter, might have trouble finding time in Bennett's system because of his slow-footed defense.

X-FACTOR: Moore already might have bought into Bennett's system. But how about the rest of the team, which was used to scoring first and defending later under Paul Graham? The Cougars will need to pass more, screen more and play defense with more intensity. At the same time, Bennett, who took Wisconsin to the 2000 Final Four, must convince them they can win. The Cougars lacked the confidence and stamina to win close games under Graham, but they have enough talent to win. If the Cougs believe in Bennett, a postseason berth wouldn't be a shocker.

Cougars data

Coach: Dick Bennett (1st year; 280-178 overall, 16 years; NCAA Tournament 5-6).
Assistant coaches: Tony Bennett (1st year), Mike Heideman (1st), Mike Burns (1st).

2002-03 record: 7-20. Pac-10: 2-16/10th.

Last regular-season title: 1941.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Pullman, Wash.

Home court: Friel Court (12,058).

Website: www.wsucougars.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
55	F	Justin Bellegarde	6-9/240	Sr.	2.3	3.0	0.6	31.1	41.7	0.0
3	G	Lance Den Boer	6-6/210	Fr.	H.S. scoring sensation is a great shooter.					
20	G	Aaron Fitzgerald	6-2/185	So.	Seattle native transferred from Portland St.					
44	C	Justin Garcia	7-1/245	Jr.	JC transfer possesses impressive size.					
22	F	Shami Gill	6-7/238	Jr.	6.0	4.2	0.7	47.4	62.5	57.1
21	G	Anthony Grant	6-5/190	So.	JC transfer is Bennett's first WSU recruit.					
12	G	Randy Green	6-4/180	So.	7.3	1.8	1.3	44.7	77.3	37.5
11	G	Thomas Kelati*	6-5/184	Jr.	10.0	3.4	3.6	42.7	73.5	45.6
1	G	Marcus Moore*	6-6/208	Sr.	18.2	5.4	4.6	34.9	75.0	32.1
5	F	Chris Schlatter*	6-6/211	Jr.	7.5	3.4	2.8	40.1	69.2	34.1
32	C	Ezenwa Ukeagu*	6-7/253	Sr.	5.9	4.4	0.3	50.0	74.1	0.0
45	F	Jeff Varem	6-6/235	Jr.	Team has high hopes for Nigeria native.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Cedrick Hughey	6-6/197	6.9	4.6	0.5	43.9	58.9	50.0
G	Justin Lyman	6-5/185	4.6	4.8	1.0	31.9	85.7	30.8
F	Milton Riley*	6-7/214	7.7	5.0	0.8	52.8	0.0	64.9

Schedule

D22	at Fresno State	J17	at Oregon	F14	Oregon
N20-23	Top World Classic*	D28	at Gonzaga	J24	Washington
N28	at Southern Utah	J2	at Stanford	J29	Arizona State
D1	IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	J4	at California	J31	Arizona
D6	TCU	J8	UCLA	F5	at UCLA
D9	Idaho	J10	USC	F7	at USC
D13	at Montana	J15	at Oregon State	F12	Oregon State
					*at Fairbanks, Alaska

9. Washington

WHAT WE LIKE: Explosive guard Nate Robinson announced he would give up football and play basketball full time. Robinson and Will Conroy are expected to share the backcourt often, with the more pass-first Conroy at point guard. Curtis Allen adds another lightning-quick option in the backcourt, but he must be willing to accept a reserve role. The Huskies' other go-to force, wing Brandon Roy, also is available on a full-time basis after missing half of last season before he was cleared by the NCAA. The Huskies welcome wing Tre Simmons and Bobby Jones, an athletic swing forward who might be needed primarily inside.

WHAT SCARES US: Washington had the worst rebounding margin in the Pac-10, and leading rebounder Doug Wrenn is gone, although the Huskies probably are better off without his baggage. The Huskies haven't had a solid big man since Todd MacCulloch. A foot injury kept center Anthony Washington out for seven games last season. The only other true low-post presence is junior college transfer Hakeem Rollins. The Huskies believe strong, athletic Mike Jensen can become a force at power forward. With sleek guards such as Robinson and Allen, the Huskies are good at getting to the basket, but their shooting must improve. Robinson could become an all-league player if he improves his outside shot.

X-FACTOR: Roy hardly was noticeable last season, sitting out all but 13 games and often deferring to Wrenn. But Roy was given three straight starts over Wrenn at the end of last season and might have set the tone for this year with a strong final weekend. Roy's shooting needs work, but his athleticism and feel for the game could make a big difference and lift the Huskies into the Pac-10 tournament field.

Huskies data

Coach: Lorenzo Romar (10-17, 1 year; 103-105 overall, 7 years; NCAA Tournament 0-1).
Assistant coaches: Ken Bone (1), Russ Schoene (1), Cameron Dollar (1).
2002-03 record: 10-17. Pac-10:

5-13/9th.

Last regular-season title: 1985 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Seattle.

Home court: Bank of America Arena (10,000).

Website: www.gohuskies.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
20	G	Curtis Allen	6-0/170	Sr.	9.7	1.6	1.8	40.7	95.7	37.7
	G	Brandon Burmeister	6-5/200	Fr.	Walk-on is a stellar 3-point shooter.					
5	G	Will Conroy*	6-1/190	Jr.	12.7	3.6	4.0	45.6	75.7	39.7
55	C	Ben Devoe	6-11/260	So.	0.3	0.7	—	50.0	—	—
	F	Matt Fletcher	6-7/200	Jr.	Walk-on JC transfer is solid rebounder.					
22	F	Hans Gasser	6-10/230	Fr.	A phenomenal shooter for a 6-10 player.					
42	F	Mike Jensen*	6-8/230	So.	5.9	3.9	0.7	42.0	59.5	45.5
15	F	Bobby Jones*	6-6/200	So.	5.7	4.1	1.0	40.3	76.8	20.0
2	G	Nate Robinson*	5-8/170	So.	13.0	3.9	2.3	46.2	71.9	25.7
	F/C	Hakeem Rollins	6-8/235	Jr.	JC transfer brings much-needed muscle.					
3	G	Brandon Roy	6-5/195	So.	6.1	2.9	1.0	50.0	48.6	10.0
	G	Tre Simmons	6-5/195	Jr.	Averaged 29.8 ppg in JC ranks last year.					
30	C	Anthony Washington	6-9/250	So.	4.8	3.2	0.6	55.6	44.1	—

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Jeffrey Day	6-9/220	3.9	2.7	0.6	43.2	62.5	37.5
G	David Hudson	5-11/185	2.3	0.1	0.2	51.9	50.0	54.2
G	C.J. Massingale	6-4/200	3.2	1.6	0.6	39.1	66.7	33.3
F	Doug Wrenn*	6-8/220	12.4	5.8	1.9	40.4	52.9	22.0

Schedule

D27	at San Diego St.	J17	at Oregon State	F14	Oregon State
N21	Portland State	D30	Columbia	J24	at Washington St.
N24	UC Riverside	J2	at California	J29	Arizona
N29	Eastern Wash.	J4	at Stanford	J31	Arizona State
D3	Gonzaga	J8	USC	F5	at USC
D6	at Wyoming	J10	UCLA	F7	at UCLA
D20	at Houston	J15	at Oregon	F12	Oregon
					M6 Stanford

10. Oregon State

WHAT WE LIKE: The Beavers have improved their talent and athleticism, but they're too young and inexperienced to go anywhere. Things should revolve around sophomore Lamar Hurd, a steady, pass-first point guard who needs to become more of an offensive threat. The Beavers are bigger, though not deep thanks to NCAA scholarship limitations that prevented replacing all six departed players. Junior college transfer Jim Hanchett is expected to make the biggest impact of the newcomers. He's a big, athletic rebounder and a smart player. He'll likely settle in at small forward but can play inside.

WHAT SCARES US: Coach Jay John injected fun and confidence in his first year, but all that could go out the window if the Beavers get beaten up during a rough nonconference schedule. Pac-10 play begins with a trip to Los Angeles. Post play is a concern. The Beavers need big men Kevin Field and Derek Potter to put in 25 good minutes between them; 7-2 Liam Hughes is a project, and David Lucas was inconsistent but promising last season. Long, active forward Kyle Jeffers should help immediately inside. The Beavers should pull off a few conference wins but lack the shooting, interior depth and experience to avoid the cellar.

X-FACTOR: Players are supposed to improve the most between their freshman and sophomore years. So, why did guard J.S. Nash get worse? Voted the program's top newcomer in 2001-02, Nash started only two games and shot 33 percent after shooting 40 percent as a freshman. His 3-point shooting also dried up. Nash was hampered mostly by fatigue. If the Beavers are going anywhere this season, they need Nash's shooting and leadership. He's the most experienced player on a team starving for experience.

Beavers data

Coach: Jay John (13-15, 1 year).

Assistant coaches: Jeff Reinert (1 year), Brian Loyd (1), Ken Carrillo (1), Kevin Mouton (1).

2002-03 record: 13-15. Pac-10:

6-12/T6th.

Last regular-season title: 1990.

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Corvallis, Ore.

Home court: Gill Coliseum (10,400).

Website: www.osubeavers.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

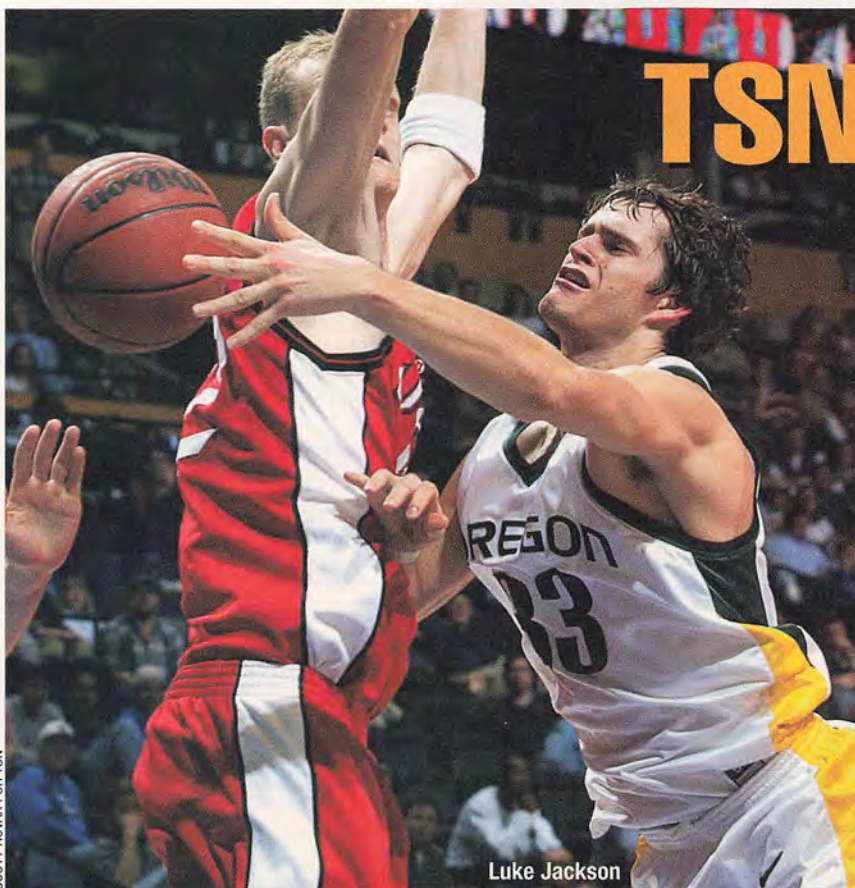
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
44	C	Kevin Field	6-10/268	So.	0.3	0.4	—	40.0	50.0	—
12	F	Jim Hanchett	6-5/230	Jr.	JC transfer has rep as a strong inside player.					
25	F	Kenny Hooks	6-7/195	Fr.	Swingman is a good athlete, shooter.					
00	C	Liam Hughes	7-2/275	Fr.	Project with little experience, good size.					
1	G	Lamar Hurd*	6-3/174	So.	6.4	3.9	3.8	42.1	66.7	12.5
35	F	Kyle Jeffers	6-8/215	Fr.	Good leaper, athlete should make impact.					
23	G/F	Michael Johnson	6-4/212	Fr.	Son of former OSU great Steve Johnson.					
30	F/C	David Lucas	6-7/210	Jr.	6.6	3.6	0.4	51.0	66.7	—
22	G	J.S. Nash	6-1/189	Jr.	5.5	2.8	2.2	32.9	69.0	19.5
24	C	Derek Potter	6-11/249	Jr.	1.5	1.6	0.1	48.0	64.7	—
5	F	Vic Remmers	6-4/186	Jr.	0.8	0.5	0.7	11.8	100.0	.071
13	G	Chris Stephens	6-1/173	So.	3.6	0.6	0.4	36.0	82.6	31.6
4	G	Angelo Tsagarakis	6-3/183	Fr.	Team needs his long-range shooting.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Jimmie Haywood*	6-2/175	10.7	3.1	2.5	36.5	54.7	33.3
F	Brian Jackson*	6-9/240	12.8	5.1	1.3	43.8	81.3	41.2
G/F	Floyd North III*	6-4/215	5.3	3.6	1.4	38.3	65.9	24.5
F	Phil Ricci*	6-7/250	16.5	8.2	1.6	52.0	64.5	31.6

Schedule

D20	Boise State	J17	Washington	F14	at Washington
N22	Prairie View A&M	D22	Sacramento State	J22	at Arizona State
N25	Portland	D28	Jackson State	J24	at Arizona
N29	IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	J2	at UCLA	J29	Stanford
D2	at Colorado	J4	at USC	J31	California
D6	Kansas State	J10	Oregon	F7	at Oregon
D12	Willamette	J15	Washington State	F12	at Washington St.
D15	at Hawaii			M6	USC



TSNumber 81.5

Oregon's points per game last season. With Luke Ridnour running the show, Oregon ranked sixth in the nation in scoring last season and third (85.5) two years ago. This season, the Ducks are a one-Luke team, with the offense going through wing Luke Jackson. McDonald's All-American Aaron Brooks takes over at point guard to run the Ducks' high-flying attack.

Luke Jackson

SOUTHEASTERN



Gerald Fitch

The league won't be in position to fool anyone this season

The Ratings Percentage Index is an invaluable tool for college basketball followers. It gives fans and media a measuring stick to determine which teams play—and beat—quality opponents. Still, the time to fully gauge a team's quality is in the NCAA Tournament. When it comes to March and the SEC, the RPI has failed us miserably. The league ranked No. 1 in the conference standings the last three years. But this is what it gave us in the NCAAs from 2001-03:

- No Final Four teams. Florida, in a surprise run in 2000, is the SEC's only Final Four team since 1998. The league had a six-year run of having one of its teams advance to the national semifinals from 1993-98.

- From 2001-03, the overall conference record in the NCAA Tournament is 16-18.

- Last season was particularly distasteful, with the exception of Auburn, which went from bubble team to the Sweet 16. Mississippi State lost to No. 12 Butler in the first round. Alabama, at one point the top-ranked team in the country, lost to Indiana in the first round. LSU was embarrassed in the first round by Purdue in a 24-point loss. Florida, for the third straight year, didn't get out of the second round; the second-seeded Gators were spanked by 22 points by Michigan State. Even Kentucky, which entered the field as the No. 1 team in the nation and on a 23-game winning streak, left red-faced following a 14-point loss to Marquette in the Midwest Regional final that was nowhere near that close.

- Eight of the 18 SEC entrants in the last three NCAA Tournaments have lost in the first round.

This season, the SEC shouldn't get a chance to underachieve. That's because the league's talent level is so low—and the talent it has is inexperienced—that expectations should be extremely tempered entering March. No matter what the RPI says.

2002-03 team statistics

Offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Georgia	27	46.4	71.4	38.0	37.4	17.9	7.6	4.4	11.6	79.2
Kentucky	36	48.8	70.4	35.6	36.8	15.9	7.8	4.9	13.9	77.3
Florida	33	47.6	70.3	39.0	34.8	16.4	7.5	4.0	13.3	75.3
LSU	32	48.2	64.6	37.7	35.1	16.1	8.0	4.1	13.9	72.7
Auburn	34	46.5	66.0	34.6	35.2	13.4	7.9	5.2	15.9	70.8
Mississippi State	31	46.9	67.4	34.1	37.0	14.4	8.6	3.7	15.5	69.4
Alabama	29	42.0	71.3	32.2	37.2	12.1	6.4	3.9	13.1	69.0
Vanderbilt	29	43.7	69.5	32.8	33.2	14.2	7.8	3.9	16.0	68.9
Tennessee	29	45.3	72.4	36.7	35.7	15.6	5.8	3.5	15.2	68.3
Mississippi	29	45.7	72.6	37.2	31.1	13.3	6.4	2.0	13.6	66.7
South Carolina	28	42.1	68.3	29.6	32.5	13.9	8.4	3.3	13.3	65.7
Arkansas	28	39.3	60.9	31.0	38.0	9.8	6.5	3.5	16.7	61.6

Defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Mississippi State	31	40.1	67.2	32.7	30.9	9.8	7.6	2.9	15.8	59.7
LSU	32	41.1	67.6	35.4	32.8	16.1	7.4	4.1	15.6	63.4
Mississippi	29	45.0	65.8	33.8	31.1	13.4	6.2	3.8	14.1	63.7
Kentucky	36	41.5	68.6	33.3	30.9	10.9	6.3	3.4	16.4	64.1
Florida	33	42.4	65.2	32.9	33.7	14.5	6.2	3.4	15.0	64.5
Alabama	29	41.9	71.5	33.4	33.6	11.8	5.3	3.1	13.7	65.1
Auburn	34	41.7	67.8	32.8	33.3	12.4	7.9	3.0	15.9	65.7
Tennessee	29	42.1	73.0	34.0	30.8	14.6	6.8	2.9	12.8	66.3
Arkansas	28	41.9	68.1	33.2	32.6	11.5	7.5	3.9	13.3	66.5
South Carolina	28	44.0	72.9	34.6	35.9	13.6	6.8	2.3	16.1	67.2
Vanderbilt	29	44.9	70.2	36.1	35.9	13.2	8.9	4.0	15.9	72.1
Georgia	27	43.5	70.1	33.8	36.7	14.5	6.0	3.1	13.4	73.2

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
East Division				
Kentucky	16	0	32	4
Florida	12	4	25	8
Georgia	11	5	19	8
Tennessee	9	7	17	12
South Carolina	5	11	12	16
Vanderbilt	3	13	11	18
West Division				
Mississippi State	9	7	21	10
Auburn	8	8	22	12
LSU	8	8	21	11
Alabama	7	9	17	12
Arkansas	4	12	9	19
Mississippi	4	12	14	15

ASCENDING: Arkansas. The last two years have been extremely difficult in Fayetteville. First, the Razorbacks had their ugly parting with Nolan Richardson. Last season, they went 9-19, including 4-12 in the SEC West. Stan Heath, though, is close to restoring the pride in the program. Arkansas returns three sophomores who averaged in double figures last year, including wing Jonathon Modica. The incoming recruiting class, led by *Parade* All-Americans Olu Famutimi and Ronnie Brewer, is one of the nation's best. And next year's class could be even better, that is if Al Jefferson doesn't jump straight to the NBA. Heath, like his mentor Tom Izzo, demands discipline, defense, rebounding and hard work. And Heath can recruit. It's cool to be a Hog again.

DESCENDING: Alabama. First came the hyped recruiting class of 1999, which featured Rod Grizzard and Erwin Dudley. Then came McDonald's All-American point guard Maurice Williams. Now, all those players are gone, and all coach Mark Gottfried has to show for them is one NCAA Tournament win, over Florida Atlantic in 2002. The program was caught off-guard by the departure of Williams after his sophomore season, and it figures to scramble for wins this season despite the presence of Kennedy Winston. Hard to believe, but the Crimson Tide were TSN's preseason No. 4 a year ago.

PLAYERS ON THE RISE:

1. **Christian Drejer, G/F, Florida.** If you follow

college basketball even somewhat closely, you're probably familiar with the name. But even those who follow the game for a living still aren't exactly sure about his game. That's because Drejer, a mystery man who came from Denmark full of hype, was limited to 18 games as a role player because of injury last season. But Drejer should be ready to command a starring role for the Gators. He's a multiskilled 6-9 wing with a great understanding of the game. How great? He had 44 assists last season. And 14 turnovers.

Translate that to starter's minutes over a full season, and you are looking at a star.

2. **Marco Killingsworth, F, Auburn.**

Killingsworth proved to be a capable complement to Marquis Daniels last season; now, Killingsworth is ready to serve as the Tigers' No. 1 option. He's a classic power player who can finish with authority, and his vast athleticism allows him to blow by defenders. He's improving as a rebounder and also expanding his range as a shooter. Killingsworth could lead Auburn to the top of the SEC West.

3. **C.J. Watson, G, Tennessee.** Watson is a pure point guard who is more interested in setting up his teammates than chucking shots. Despite averaging 35.8 minutes last season, he attempted 10 or more shots once and crafted a solid 1.9-to-1 assists-to-turnover ratio. Watson is the foundation on which Buzz Peterson is building. He's a good start.

TSN

E-mail associate editor Kyle Veltrop at kveltrop@sportingnews.com.

RANKING THE 2003 RECRUITING CLASSES

By Mike Sullivan, *Rivals.com*

1. **Arkansas.** A solid class with Ronnie Brewer, Olu Famutimi and Vincent Hunter.
2. **LSU.** Brandon Bass is a terrific all-around player; Regis Koundija and Tack Minor can score plenty.
3. **South Carolina.** Tre Kelley can score points in bunches, and Brandon Wallace has major potential.
4. **Florida.** The late addition of Mohamed Abukar, a talented all-around player, strengthens this class.
5. **Mississippi.** Byron Burnett is raw but strong in the paint. Tommie Eddie can help immediately.
6. **Kentucky.** Sometimes brilliant, Shagari Alleyne holds the key to how great this class will be.
7. **Alabama.** With Jemareo Davidson, Akini Adkins and Shawn Taylor, this frontcourt will be quick.
8. **Tennessee.** Major Wingate has a great frame but must put his size to better use at this level.
9. **Auburn.** Ian Young has nice range on his jumper; Quinnet Brown is an attacking forward who scores.
10. **Mississippi State.** A class with potential lost Travis Outlaw to the NBA and Jackie Butler till 2004-05.
11. **Georgia.** Corey Gibbs will boost the program's future; Marcus Sikes was a solid late-spring pickup.
12. **Vanderbilt.** Big man Ted Skuchas could be an impact player later if he works hard off the court.

Best bets

1. The SEC's Final Four-less drought will reach four seasons, and the conference will have its string of getting six teams into the NCAA Tournament end at five years. In fact, the only teams that seem to be locks to make the field entering the season are Florida and Kentucky. It wouldn't be a shocker if any other league team ended its season in the NIT—or worse.

2. Vanderbilt's Matt Freije won't be named player of the year in the league, but that

doesn't mean he won't be the SEC's best player. His scoring average has risen from 10.4 as a freshman to 15.1 as a sophomore to 17.9 as a junior, when he had 11 games of more than 20 points.

3. Florida still will struggle with decision-making and shot selection. Departed guard Brett Nelson was blamed for the Gators' problems in those two areas, but he wasn't the only one who was hoisting up ill-advised shots last season. Anthony Roberson and Matt Walsh need to have a better idea of what they are doing. Their immense talent will only get them so far.

Predictions

East Division

1. Florida*
2. Kentucky*
3. Georgia*
4. South Carolina
5. Tennessee
6. Vanderbilt

West Division

1. Mississippi State*
2. Auburn*
3. LSU
4. Arkansas
5. Alabama
6. Mississippi

*NCAA Tournament pick

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Anthony Roberson, Florida	6-1	180	So.
G	Gerald Fitch, Kentucky	6-3	188	Sr.
F	Lawrence Roberts, Miss. State	6-9	230	Jr.
F	Matt Freije, Vanderbilt	6-9	230	Sr.
F	David Lee, Florida	6-9	240	Jr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Timmy Bowers, Miss. State	6-2	180	Sr.
G/F	Christian Drejer, Florida	6-9	210	So.
F	Marco Killingsworth, Auburn	6-7	235	Jr.
F	Chuck Hayes, Kentucky	6-6	247	Jr.
F	Kennedy Winston, Alabama	6-6	205	So.

Player spotlight

Player of the year

Anthony Roberson

With Justin Hamilton and Brett Nelson gone, the backcourt—and the Gators, for that matter—belongs to Roberson, a special talent who ranked second on the team in scoring as a freshman. Roberson is a confident player who isn't afraid to let it fly from 3-point range. But he's also quick and athletic enough to score off penetration. Roberson will need to prove that he's adept as a playmaker, and not just as a scorer, but that's a hurdle he easily should clear.



Newcomer of the year

Brandon Bass, F, LSU

The word out of Baton Rouge is that this will be the most talented team John Brady has had at LSU. The best of a hyped recruiting class is Bass. He has a chiseled physique; he certainly doesn't look like someone who just finished high school. He'll bring a toughness to the interior and make an immediate impact as a scorer and rebounder inside. He and Jaime Lloreda will headline what could be the SEC's top frontcourt. Bass also is versatile enough to step out and hit a jumper. He's a future star indeed. The Tigers will be young; they'll also be exciting.

Most underrated

Timmy Bowers

Often overshadowed by Derrick Zimmerman and Mario Austin the last three years, Bowers should shine now that he's the go-to guy. It's a role he showed he could handle last season when Austin was serving an NCAA suspension to start the year. In the first five games of 2002-03, Bowers averaged 19.8 points. He is a good shooter and a capable playmaker. Bowers won't be a secret for long.

1. Florida

WHAT WE LIKE: To the chagrin of his SEC rivals, Billy Donovan keeps attracting blue-chippers to Gainesville. The Gators are young—11 of 14 players are in their first or second year in the program—but their talent level is unparalleled in the conference. Point guard Anthony Roberson was the SEC Freshman of the Year last season, and classmate Matt Walsh was probably the surprise player in the league. Donovan has even better range as a recruiter than he did as a 3-point shooter at Providence in the 1980s. Four of his projected starters are from

Schedule

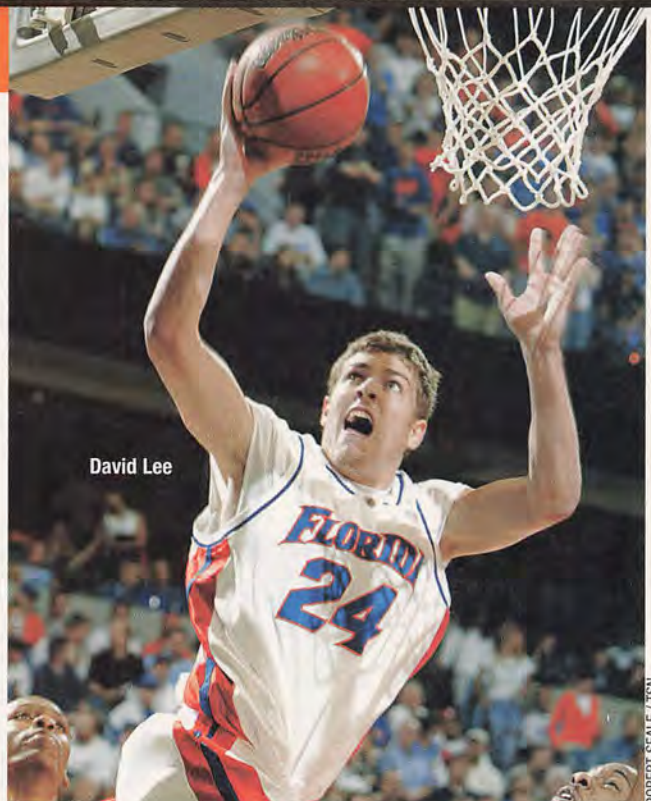
N25	Montana State
N28	Arizona*
D2	Florida A&M
D4	Central Florida**
D6	Stetson
D10	Maryland
D13	at Louisville
D20	West Virginia***
D22	Northeastern
D27	Eastern Kentucky
J3	Florida State
J7	at South Carolina
J10	Tennessee
J17	at Vanderbilt
J21	Mississippi State
J24	Auburn
J27	at Alabama
J31	at Tennessee
F3	Kentucky
F7	Vanderbilt
F14	LSU
F17	at Georgia
F21	at Mississippi
F25	South Carolina
F28	at Arkansas
M3	Georgia
M7	at Kentucky
*at Springfield, Mass.	
**at Jacksonville	
***at Miami	

Michigan, Pennsylvania, Missouri and Denmark and backup point guard Ryan Appleby is from Washington. The Sunshine State may be talent-rich, but only two scholarship Gators are in-state recruits. With Justin Hamilton gone from the backcourt, Roberson will move to his more natural point guard slot as a sophomore. Walsh, in turn, will spend more minutes at shooting guard than small forward. Christian Drejer becomes the starter at small forward, giving Florida three strong ball-handlers and passers on the perimeter. Mohamed Abukar, another long-distance recruit from California, appears to be the latest in Florida's line of long, mobile big men who are comfortable facing the basket from the perimeter. Matt Bonner's graduation also means movement in the frontcourt. David Lee, who had a breakout year as a sophomore playing under the basket, should slide to power forward, Bonner's old spot. Unlike Bonner, Lee is no 3-point shooter. But he's darn good at everything else. If the various Gators adapt to their new roles, Florida could make a deep run in the NCAA Tournament.

WHAT SCARES US: Florida has scorers and shooters, but is it tough enough? You'd have thought at one time that guard Brett Nelson would be the most difficult senior to replace, but that's not the case. Nelson's departure won't leave a void because of his strange decline, but the physical absence of Bonner and Hamilton will. Hamilton was a great defender who

drew the tough perimeter assignments. Who will do the dirty work this season? Bonner was a big presence whether he was facing the basket outside or posting up. Lee will hold his ground at power forward, but it remains to be seen who will complement him around the basket. Bonell Colas, the only senior, will have to make big strides to be a significant factor. Mario Boggan has the bulk at 290, but he is only 6-6 and got virtually no experience last season. Sophomore Adrian Moss and freshman Chris Richard will have to provide meaningful minutes in the paint. Judging from the numbers, Florida's defense was solid last season. But when it mattered, in the postseason, the Gators suffered a letdown that Donovan must address. In a first-round SEC Tournament upset loss to LSU, the Tigers shoot 55.0 percent. In the Gators' 68-46 second-round NCAA loss to Michigan State, the Spartans shot 55.0 percent. After briefly claiming the No. 1 ranking in February, the Gators fizzled, losing four of their last five games. The 3-point shooting, a crucial weapon, tailed off, exposing a soft inside game. Was it a case of wearing down, of tired legs? Maybe. If so, Donovan has to make adjustments for Florida to realize its potential.

X-FACTOR: Drejer could hold the key to making the Gators a national force. A serious ankle injury prevented him from showing U.S. fans what all the hype was about last winter. Drejer essentially chose Florida over the NBA, but once he got healthy enough to play in Florida's final 18 games, he never approached his European credentials. But that's all in the past. Drejer has put on weight and needs only to regain his confidence to be a difference-maker. Because of his passing and creative skills, Drejer could fit the niche of a point forward. That's important because Walsh and Roberson will need more help getting shots this winter without Bonner, Nelson and Hamilton to draw defensive pressure.



David Lee

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

An SEC coach says: Christian Drejer will have a breakout year. I'm not sure how big a scorer he will be, but he's got a great feel for the game. How good will they be defensively? They struggled last year. That's why they played a lot of zone. They will move David Lee back to the four, and he belongs there. He can't shoot it. Ryan Appleby and Lee Humphrey, I'm not sure how effective they'll be as freshmen—but one will have to play. Roberson isn't a point guard. He's a kid who looks to score first. He wants to get in the NBA next year. Most young guys think scoring will do it for them.

Gators data

Coach: Billy Donovan (149-73, 7 years; 184-93 overall, 9 years; NCAA Tournament 9-5).
Assistant coaches: Anthony Grant (7 years), Donnie Jones (7), Tom Ostram (2).
2002-03 record: 25-8. SEC East: 12-4/2nd. Lost to Michigan State in

NCAA South second round.
Last regular-season title: 2002. (tie, East Division).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Gainesville, Fla.
Home court: Stephen C. O'Connell Center (12,000).
Website: www.gatorzone.com

Roster

		*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter									
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%	
21	F	Mohamed Abukar	6-10/200	Fr.	Played with USA Junior National team.						
22	G	Rashid Al-Kaleem	6-3/192	So.	1.8	0.8	0.5	29.3	37.5	26.7	
23	G	Ryan Appleby	6-3/165	Fr.	Named a consensus top 10 point guard.						
0	C	Mario Boggan	6-6/290	So.	2.3	1.9	0.3	52.0	40.0	—	
5	G	Chris Capko	6-1/185	So.	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.0	33.3	0.0	
42	F	Bonell Colas	6-9/225	Sr.	4.8	2.7	0.6	51.6	73.9	—	
10	G/F	Christian Drejer	6-9/210	So.	3.6	1.6	2.4	40.9	79.3	33.3	
3	G	Seth Haimovitch	6-1/176	Jr.	0.5	0.0	0.2	50.0	—	50.0	
12	G	Lee Humphrey	6-2/180	Fr.	Tennessee's Class 3A Mr. Basketball.						
24	F	David Lee*	6-9/240	Jr.	11.2	6.8	1.8	64.8	62.4	—	
4	F	Adrian Moss	6-9/238	So.	2.5	1.9	0.2	48.3	53.8	33.3	
32	F	Chris Richard	6-8/230	Fr.	Florida's Mr. Basketball, Donovan's third.						
1	G	Anthony Roberson*	6-1/180	So.	15.2	6.1	1.8	40.9	82.0	38.9	
44	F	Matt Walsh*	6-6/205	So.	12.2	4.7	3.1	46.7	73.9	43.2	
Key losses											
Pos.	Name		Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%		
F	Matt Bonner*		6-10/237	15.2	6.1	1.5	51.0	73.3	47.4		
G	Justin Hamilton*		6-3/207	8.0	3.3	3.8	56.4	76.0	40.3		
G	Brett Nelson		6-4/182	6.3	1.7	2.1	29.6	82.1	30.9		

2. Kentucky

WHAT WE LIKE: If Tubby Smith needed any more validation that he is among the top handful of coaches in college basketball, last season provided it. As long as Smith is on the bench staring holes through offending Wildcats (and officials), Kentucky must be taken seriously. This season is no exception. Smith's Wildcats last winter were greater than the sum of their parts, reeling off a 26-game winning streak that included a 19-0 romp through the SEC regular season and tournament. Though replacing Keith Bogans and Marquis Estill is no small

undertaking, Smith's ability to mesh a rotation of good players compensates for the lack of great ones. The Wildcats should be very good on defense again, though they will miss the interior presence of Estill and shot-swatting Jules Camara. Chuck Hayes, never flashy, is rock-solid at power forward. Erik Daniels, at 6-8, lacks bulk but is athletic (and long) enough to defend virtually any position on the court. In Gerald Fitch and Cliff Hawkins, Kentucky has two excellent perimeter defenders. In short, there won't be many easy shots to be found against the Wildcats, who led the SEC in virtually every defensive category last season. On offense, Daniels and Fitch must duplicate excellent junior seasons. Either is capable of scoring 20 points in a given game. Daniels cashed in on not being a marked man last season (he led the team in scoring seven times), but with Bogans and Estill gone, defenses will guard him more closely. Hayes can bump his scoring average from 8.6 points into low double figures. The Wildcats are expecting a big offensive jump from sophomore Kelenna Azubuike. He played only 8.4 minutes a game as a freshman, but the 6-5 swingman showed flashes of being an explosive scorer. With Bogans gone, the door is open for Azubuike to join Fitch as the team's top 3-point options. Bottom line: Kentucky won't coast through the SEC unscathed this season, but if Smith gets the team to play smart and unselfish offense, the defense will set an aggressive tempo and hold up its end of the bargain.

WHAT SCARES US: Remove Estill and Camara from the mix and Kentucky's inside presence clearly is diminished. Between them, they accounted for 102 of the team's 176 blocked shots last season. Who steps into the rotation to complement Hayes and Daniels? Size isn't an issue, but experience is. Kentucky recruited two 7-foot freshmen, Shagari Alleyne and Polish import Lukasz Obrzut. There also is 6-9 Bernard Cote, who rarely left the bench as a freshman. None of the three is regarded as ready for prime time. On the other hand, there are a lot of fouls to give. Of the three, the 7-3 Alleyne should get the most minutes. The chemistry issue should be watched. Two years ago, Kentucky was dubbed Team Turmoil, but Smith ran a tight ship last winter. Hawkins sacrificed his starting job at the point when Fitch proved to be an early-season surprise. If Hawkins again is put in a sixth-man role, he must accept it and be a valuable spark off the bench, as he was last season.

X-FACTOR: Kentucky could go several ways on the perimeter with Bogans gone. Fitch and Hawkins could start together, forming perhaps one of the most talented backcourts in the nation. Azubuike stands to gain serious playing time. Then there's Antwain Barbour. The 6-5 swingman didn't have nearly the impact expected last season after transferring from junior college, in part because of a wrist injury. Sometimes junior college players need a season to adjust, and Kentucky is hoping the athletic Barbour can step it up this winter. A slasher more than a shooter, Barbour began the season in the starting lineup, scoring 13 points in the opener. But he failed to reach double figures again, lost his job and appeared to press. He can contribute by crashing the boards, playing pressure defense and finding a comfort zone on offense.

Schedule

N19-21 BCA Classic
N28 Tennessee Tech
D1 Marshall*
D6 UCLA**
D13 Michigan State***
D20 Indiana****
D23 Eastern Kentucky
D27 Louisville
D31 Austin Peay
J3 North Carolina
J10 Vanderbilt
J13 at Mississippi State
J17 Georgia
J20 at Tennessee
J25 at Notre Dame
J28 Mississippi
J31 at Vanderbilt
F3 at Florida
F7 South Carolina
F10 Alabama
F14 at Georgia
F18 Arkansas
F21 at Auburn
F25 Tennessee
F29 at LSU
M3 at South Carolina
M7 Florida
*at Cincinnati
**at Anaheim
***at Detroit
****at Indianapolis



Cliff Hawkins

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

An SEC coach says: I think their biggest concern is getting baskets inside. Last year, they were so good defensively, and part of the reason was their guards could really get after you with Jules Camara and Marquis Estill blocking shots. The kid Bernard Cote, I don't think he's a very good player inside. They're going to be perimeter-oriented. I could see a lot of teams zoning Kentucky. Gerald Fitch is the only guy who can shoot. If they play their best team, they could go with Chuck Hayes, Erik Daniels and Kelenna Azubuike or Antwain Barbour at the 3. Which is a small team.

Wildcats data

Coach: Tubby Smith (164-47, 6 years; 288-109 overall, 12 years; NCAA Tournament 23-9; won NCAA title in 1998).

Assistant coaches: David Hobbs (3 years), Reggie Hanson (3), Scott Rigot (1).

2002-03 record: 32-4. SEC East:

16-0/1st. Lost to Marquette in NCAA Midwest final.

Last regular-season title: 2003 (East Division).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1991.

Site: Lexington, Ky.

Home court: Rupp Arena (23,000).

Website: www.ukathletics.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
21	C	Shagari Alleyne	7-3/258		Project will be thrown into the fire.					
24	G/F	Kelenna Azubuike	6-5/208	Sr.	3.7	1.4	0.4	50.0	82.1	36.7
33	G/F	Antwain Barbour	6-5/195	Sr.	3.4	1.6	0.9	41.0	54.2	24.3
5	G	Josh Carrier	6-5/202	Jr.	1.4	0.8	0.3	33.3	50.0	31.3
12	F	Bernard Cote	6-9/217	So.	0.8	0.9	0.0	36.8	50.0	33.3
14	G	Erik Daniels*	6-8/214	Sr.	9.5	4.9	2.2	56.7	63.0	30.8
4	G	Gerald Fitch*	6-3/188	Sr.	12.3	3.0	2.4	47.2	76.5	41.5
1	G	Cliff Hawkins	6-1/187	Sr.	6.3	2.2	3.8	41.2	74.7	38.1
44	F	Chuck Hayes*	6-6/247	Jr.	8.6	6.8	2.3	48.9	78.8	24.2
10	C	Lukasz Obrzut	7-1/257		Will provide rebounding and shot blocking.					
13	F	Bobby Perry	6-7/215		His position is deep, so expect few minutes.					
23	F	Sheray Thomas	6-7/218		Insiders feel he may be diamond in the rough.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Keith Bogans*	6-5/213	15.7	3.8	2.7	45.6	73.8	38.3
F/C	Jules Camara	6-11/211	6.4	3.5	0.8	53.3	75.0	0.0
F/C	Marquis Estill*	6-9/236	11.6	6.0	1.1	58.7	56.0	16.7

3. Georgia

WHAT WE LIKE: In Rashad Wright, Chris Daniels and Steve Thomas, Georgia has three veterans with a combined 191 starts. Wright is as steady as any point guard in the SEC, with an assist-to-turnover ratio of nearly 3-to-1 last season. Daniels and Thomas are athletic forwards who attack the glass, defend hard and are capable of averaging double figures in points while shooting a high percentage. Though Thomas stands a modest 6-8, he weighs 240 pounds and can bang with the bigger guys. Daniels runs the floor well. Last year, swingman Damien Wilkins and center Jonas Hayes were excellent complementary players, but it remains to be seen how they might mesh in the starting five.

WHAT SCARES US: With Jarvis Hayes and Ezra Williams gone, who can make a shot from more than 15 feet? Hayes and Williams combined for 34.9 points a game and launched 313 of Georgia's 476 3-point shots last season. The Bulldogs, to say the least, will be a very different offensive team under new coach Dennis Felton. Wright and Wilkins are sub-30 percent career 3-point shooters; Jonas Hayes, Daniels and Thomas don't even think about 3s. Freshman guard Levi Stukes will get minutes if he can knock down a jumper.

X-FACTOR: Felton must keep one eye on the court and the other on the recruiting front this winter. Georgia's roster consists of five seniors and seven freshmen (three of whom are walk-ons)—and there's nothing in between. Under Jim Harrick, the Bulldogs struggled to get recruits admitted to school and, thus, there's zero depth. Felton released four of Harrick's last five recruits (two of them junior college transfers), retaining only forward Corey Gibbs.

Bulldogs data

Coach: Dennis Felton (1st year; 100-54 overall, 5 years; NCAA Tournament 0-3).
Assistant coaches: Pete Herrmann (1st year), Mike Jones (1st), Ken McDonald (1st).
2002-03 record: 19-8. SEC East: 11-5/3rd.

Last regular-season title: 2002 (tie, East Division).
Last NCAA appearance: 2002.
Site: Athens, Ga.
Home court: Stegeman Coliseum (10,523).
Website: www.georgiadogs.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
50	F	Chris Daniels*	6-7/220	Sr.	9.8	7.1	3.1	53.8	71.6	12.5
34	F	Corey Gibbs	6-7/230	Fr.	Most-touted newcomer has strength.					
33	F/C	Jonas Hayes	6-8/240	Sr.	6.7	4.4	0.7	52.8	61.4	100.0
15	F	Steve Newman	6-8/235	Fr.	A project who figures to be redshirted.					
42	F	Marcus Sikes	6-6/215	Fr.	Great athlete adds depth to the wing.					
14	G	Levi Stukes	6-1/180	Fr.	Backup point guard for now.					
55	F/C	Steve Thomas*	6-8/240	Sr.	10.2	7.3	1.3	50.3	62.0	—
54	C	Joey Waldrop	7-0/350	Fr.	Heavyweight is a work in progress.					
5	G	Buzz Wehunt	6-4/185	Fr.	Shooting will make him a weapon.					
12	G/F	Damien Wilkins	6-7/230	Sr.	7.5	2.9	2.6	41.1	73.6	27.3
20	G	Steve Wolek	5-11/175	Fr.	Will provide depth at the point.					
3	G	Rashad Wright*	6-3/190	Sr.	7.8	2.6	5.5	36.5	72.0	28.4

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Jarvis Hayes*	6-7/230	18.3	4.4	2.0	50.3	78.4	42.5
G	Richard Wehunt	6-4/195	4.5	1.0	0.3	52.8	100.0	40.6
G	Ezra Williams*	6-4/235	16.6	5.0	2.3	43.1	73.1	41.4

Schedule		D18	South Alabama	J24	at Mississippi St.	F21	Tennessee
N21	Western Carolina	D22	Charleston So.	J28	at LSU	TBA	South Carolina
N25	Florida Atlantic	D30	at Pittsburgh	J31	Arkansas	M3	at Florida
N29	at Gonzaga	J3	Georgia Tech	F4	Mississippi	M6	Vanderbilt
D2	Towson	J7	at Tennessee	F7	at Auburn		*at Atlanta
D5	Florida A&M	J10	South Carolina	F11	at Vanderbilt		
D9	Winthrop	J17	at Kentucky	F14	Kentucky		
D13	Clemson*	J21	Alabama	F17	Florida		

4. South Carolina

WHAT WE LIKE: Rolando Howell and Carlos Powell are talented native South Carolinians, and in freshman power forward Brandon Wallace, coach Dave Odom added a third home-grown quality player. Whether Odom has the talent in place to complement them is another story. Powell, a small forward, made a nice jump from his freshman year, leading the Gamecocks in scoring average at 12.6. He continues to make the transition from a back-to-the-basket high school player to the perimeter. Wallace should be an immediate contributor.

WHAT SCARES US: How much will Howell contribute? He was suspended indefinitely in August after being arrested on a criminal domestic violence charge. Stat-wise, Howell's progression through his first three years has been modest (from 8.5 ppg to 10.0), but he is a hard-worker in the paint. The Gamecocks already were thin inside with the loss of Tony Kitchings. In the backcourt, unless the freshmen are quick studies, South Carolina again might suffer from mediocre perimeter play and shooting. Carolina will miss the playmaking smarts (and steals) of departed Chuck Eidson. Freshman Tre Kelley will make a run at the starting point guard job because neither of the holdovers, Michael Boynton and Jarod Gerald, can score.

X-FACTOR: The Gamecocks tailed off from 22 wins to 12 in Odom's second year, from the NIT championship game to no postseason. Entering Year 3, Odom hopes his recruits will address the team's perimeter shooting woes. He eased the schedule by delaying a Great Alaska Shootout trip for a year to allow his team to mature. But Odom says the key to getting back on track is losing the me-first attitude born of last year's frustrations.

Gamecocks data

Coach: Dave Odom (34-31, 2 years; 312-205 overall, 17 years; NCAA Tournament 10-8).
Assistant coaches: Rick Duckett (2 years), Barry Sanderson (2), Ricky Stokes (1st).

2002-03 record: 12-16. SEC East: 5-11/5th.

Last regular-season title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Columbia, S.C.
Home court: Carolina Center (17,600).
Website: www.uscsports.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
34	F	Renaldo Balkman	6-7/195	Fr.	Needs more bulk for the SEC.					
30	G	Michael Boynton	6-2/180	Sr.	2.8	1.0	1.6	28.0	61.9	29.9
32	F	Kerbrell Brown*	6-8/220	Sr.	8.9	3.4	1.5	39.4	67.2	29.3
54	C	John Chappell	6-10/235	Jr.	0.7	1.5	0.1	33.3	37.5	—
20	G	Sheldon Everett	5-7/150	Jr.	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
5	G	Jarod Gerald	6-1/185	So.	0.4	0.8	1.5	11.1	42.9	16.7
31	G	Josh Gonner	6-1/175	Jr.	JC transfer brings experience to backcourt.					
4	F	Ivan Howell	6-7/215	Sr.	1.7	0.6	0.4	16.7	100.0	14.3
55	F	Rolando Howell*	6-9/220	Sr.	10.0	6.3	0.9	47.0	51.7	0.0
13	C	Paulius Joneliunas	6-10/260	Fr.	Another Lithuanian for an Odom roster.					
1	G	Tre Kelley	6-0/170	Fr.	Becomes point guard by default.					
21	G	Tarence Kinsey	6-6/180	So.	2.2	0.8	0.6	36.0	37.5	7.1
25	G	Jon Land	6-4/185	Jr.	There's playing time available at guard.					
15	F	Carlos Powell*	6-7/220	Jr.	12.6	4.3	1.6	44.3	69.7	30.6
33	F	Brandon Wallace	6-9/185	Fr.	S.C. native could have an immediate impact.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Chuck Eidson*	6-7/205	11.3	4.8	4.5	43.6	81.8	32.9
C	Tony Kitchings*	6-10/260	9.4	5.4	0.7	47.8	67.9	0.0
C	Marius Petravicius	6-10/250	5.6	3.4	0.3	46.5	93.8	50.0
F	Chris Warren	6-5/195	9.6	2.5	1.4	44.0	77.6	40.6

Schedule	D17	Charleston So.	J14	at Auburn	F11	Mississippi St.
N17-25 Guardians Classic	D20	N.C. State	J17	Tennessee	F14	Vanderbilt
N21 Navy	D22	S.C. State	J24	LSU	F21	at Arkansas
N29 Campbell	D30	Yale	J28	at Vanderbilt	F25	at Florida
D3 at The Citadel	J2	Appalachian State	J31	Mississippi	F28	Georgia
D6 at Clemson	J7	Florida	F4	Alabama	M3	Kentucky
D15 at Temple	J10	at Georgia	F7	at Kentucky	M6	at Tennessee

5. Tennessee

WHAT WE LIKE: In C.J. Watson and Brandon Crump, the Vols have an outside-inside combo for which All-SEC honors are within reach. However, getting there this season might be pushing it. Watson, who led the league in minutes played and assists as a freshman, is the consummate point guard Tennessee has lacked in recent years. This year, with a deeper bench behind him, Watson should stay fresher late in the season. If the 6-10 Crump equals the progress he made from his freshman to sophomore years, NBA scouts will take note. Scooter McFadgon, a 6-5 transfer, will be an impact addition. A two-year starter at Memphis, McFadgon will be an aggressive shooter on a team that needs scoring punch.

WHAT SCARES US: Where does the scoring come from? For the second year in a row, the Vols must replace the bulk of their offense. Last season, Ron Slay stepped brashly into the void created by the loss of Marcus Haislip and Vincent Yarbrough. This time around, there's no one likely to replace Slay's 21.2 points per game. Coach Buzz Peterson hopes McFadgon's marksmanship will stretch the defense and that freshman Jordan Howell will be a competent spot shooter off the bench. Another concern is depth in the post. Slay is gone, and so is defensive-minded Elgrace Wilborn, booted for breaking Crump's jaw in an offseason altercation. Clemson transfer Jemere Hendrix must help immediately.

X-FACTOR: As a freshman, Stanley Asumnu practiced like Superman but mostly played like Clark Kent. The 6-5 wing is the team's best athlete. Working with a psychologist has helped the eager-to-please Asumnu relax and visualize success. If he harnesses his potential, the Vols could be improved at four positions (all but Slay's) from last season.

Volunteers data

Coach: Buzz Peterson (32-28, 2 years; 137-78 overall, 7 years; NCAA Tournament 0-1).

Assistant coaches: Chris Ferguson (6 years), Ed Conroy (1st), Chuck Benson (1st).

2002-03 record: 17-12. SEC East:

9-7/4th. Lost to Georgetown in NIT first round.

Last regular-season title: 2000 (tie, East Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Knoxville, Tenn.

Home court: Thompson-Boling Arena (24,535).

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
43	F	Justin Albrecht	6-6/220	Jr.	2.0	2.0	1.5	40.0	—	0.0
3	F	Stanley Asumnu	6-5/200	So.	2.9	1.7	0.8	31.5	58.1	20.0
23	G	Dane Bradshaw	6-3/215	Fr.	Won three Tennessee state titles.					
4	F	Brandon Crump*	6-10/235	Jr.	11.0	5.9	1.1	56.4	75.3	—
12	G	Pee-Wee Gash	5-6/145	So.	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	—	—
33	F	Jemere Hendrix	6-8/215	So.	Suffered foot fracture while at Clemson.					
0	C	Boomer Herndon	6-10/235	So.	1.2	1.6	0.1	33.3	57.1	—
	G	Jordan Howell	6-3/180	Fr.	Shooter with quick release, hoop smarts.					
2	G	Scotter McFadgon	6-5/200	Jr.	Helped Memphis win NIT in 2002.					
31	F	Fred Smithwick	6-6/210	Jr.	0.0	0.3	0.0	—	—	—
32	G	C.J. Watson*	6-2/160	So.	9.1	4.2	5.5	42.6	65.3	36.4
5	G	John Winchester	6-3/170	So.	1.5	0.8	0.6	22.9	80.0	23.3
1	C	Major Wingate	6-10/245	Fr.	Big body to help a thin frontcourt.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Jon Higgins*	6-3/190	8.9	3.1	2.9	43.8	75.0	41.1
G	Thaydeus Holden*	6-0/175	8.5	2.5	1.5	39.5	82.8	40.3
F	Ron Slay*	6-8/235	21.2	7.8	2.1	48.6	78.2	37.4
F	Derek Stribling	6-6/190	2.7	1.6	0.6	46.7	88.9	100.0
F	Elgrace Wilborn	6-8/220	2.9	4.7	0.6	58.7	34.6	—

Schedule

Schedule		D22	Tennessee Tech	J20	Kentucky	F14	at Alabama
N21	Wofford	D30	UNC Asheville	J25	Louisville	F18	Mississippi
N28	Tennessee State	J3	at Massachusetts	J28	at Mississippi St.	F21	at Georgia
D2	Texas A&M	J7	Georgia	J31	Florida	F25	at Kentucky
D13	at Nebraska	J10	at Florida	F4	at LSU	F28	Auburn
D17	The Citadel	J14	Vanderbilt	F7	Georgia Tech	M3	at Vanderbilt
D20	Georgia State	J17	at South Carolina	F11	Arkansas	M6	South Carolina

6. Vanderbilt

WHAT WE LIKE: If senior forward Matt Freije played at Kentucky, he'd be the preseason SEC Player of the Year. In a league that lost a ton of stars, Freije might be the most productive returning player. Playing on a losing team, however, unfairly diminishes his chances at honors. Freije is a scorer, but he can't carry a team without more help. Vandy needs big years from two promising hometown sophomores: power forward Julian Terrell and point guard Mario Moore. Terrell looked good in spots last season but must improve as a full-time starter. Moore can be erratic but has the quickness and creative abilities to make Vandy a better team.

WHAT SCARES US: Coach Kevin Stallings has made a mission of getting Vanderbilt tougher. He thought last season would be the year people quit kicking sand in Vandy's face, but, alas, it happened again. In SEC play, the team went 3-13 and was dreadful defensively. Old business? Not really, because the roster remains virtually intact, minus starting center Brian Thornton—arguably the team's most physical presence—who transferred. With everyone else back, Stallings was able to add only one recruit, shooting guard Dan Cage. Starting shooting guard Jason Holwerda is a reluctant shooter, an oversight that needs correcting.

X-FACTOR: Something is out of tune in Music City. The Stallings Era is approaching a dead end unless things get turned around quickly. After a 19-11 debut (8-8 SEC), Stallings is 43-48 (13-35 SEC) the past three seasons. Despite beating archrival Tennessee for three in-state recruits—Holwerda, Terrell, Moore—there's no momentum. In fact, a starter transferred after each of the past three seasons: Billy Richmond ('01), Brendan Plavich ('02) and now Thornton. The heat is on in Nashville.

Commodores data

Coach: Kevin Stallings (62-59, 4 years; 185-122 overall, 10 years; NCAA Tournament 1-2).

Assistant coaches: Jeff Jackson (4 years), Brad Frederick (4), Dan Muller (1st).

2002-03 record: 11-18. SEC East:

3-13/6th.

Last regular-season title: 1993.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Nashville.

Home court: Memorial Gym (14,168).

Website: www.vucommodores.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
20	G	Dan Cage	6-5/195	Fr.	Maybe this guy can (and will) shoot.					
35	F	Matt Freije*	6-9/230	Sr.	17.9	4.4	1.1	44.3	79.8	35.1
3	F	Jason Holwerda*	6-5/210	Jr.	5.3	2.6	2.7	50.4	52.2	30.6
24	G	Scott Hundley	6-5/216	Sr.	5.2	3.0	1.9	43.6	79.2	16.7
11	G	Russell Lakey*	6-0/182	Sr.	6.0	3.2	3.4	32.2	72.2	27.1
1	G	Mario Moore	5-11/177	So.	6.1	1.8	2.0	33.0	62.2	34.7
10	G	Adam Payton	6-3/191	So.	1.3	0.2	0.5	35.7	25.0	50.0
5	F	Geoff Peck	6-6/230	So.	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	—	—
13	C	David Przybylski	7-1/246	Jr.	4.5	2.4	0.5	46.6	66.7	29.4
42	F	Martin Schnedlitz	6-10/243	Jr.	0.7	0.8	0.0	37.5	0.0	—
54	C	Ted Skuchas	6-11/243	Fr.	Can 2002-03 redshirt make an impact?					
44	G/F	Corey Smith*	6-5/230	Jr.	8.3	3.2	1.7	44.1	84.4	38.3
33	F	Julian Terrell	6-9/225	So.	4.3	3.9	0.2	48.5	48.3	—

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Brian Thornton*	6-8/235	11.5	5.7	0.7	52.7	69.7	—

Schedule

Schedule		D13	Tennessee Tech	J14	at Tennessee	F14	at South Carolina
N21	at Belmont	D20	Wofford	J17	Florida	F18	at Alabama
N24	Indiana	D22	Appalachian State	J24	at Arkansas	F21	LSU
N29	Tennessee-Martin	D30	Lehigh	J28	South Carolina	F25	at Mississippi
D3	IUPUI	J3	at TCU	J31	Kentucky	F28	Mississippi State
D6	Michigan	J7	Auburn	F7	at Florida	M3	Tennessee
D10	Tennessee State	J10	at Kentucky	F11	Georgia	M6	at Georgia

1. Mississippi State

WHAT WE LIKE: Timmy Bowers is one of the SEC's most complete guards. He can score off the dribble or from long range. He should have plenty of room to operate because the Bulldogs got a late but big-time addition in Lawrence Roberts, who was ruled immediately eligible by the NCAA after transferring from scandal-ridden Baylor. Roberts is one of the nation's top five power forwards. He requires double-teams when he catches the ball on the low blocks. Otherwise, he scores at will. Roberts excels at drawing fouls, and he can step away from the basket and hit the midrange jumper, particularly along the baseline. He's excellent on the glass, especially on the offensive end. Ontario Harper and Winsome Frazier have experience and provide depth on the perimeter, along with Shane Power, a transfer from Iowa State.

WHAT SCARES US: The Bulldogs need freshman Gary Ervin to take over the point; otherwise, Bowers may have to play there and that would take away from his ability to disrupt from the wing. The program lost key contributors in center Mario Austin and point guard Derrick Zimmerman. It also lost heralded recruits Travis Outlaw, who declared for the NBA draft, and Jackie Butler, who didn't qualify and went to prep school. Marcus Campbell is 7-0 and has NBA ability, but he has to mature and play harder. If he's not a consistent force, too big of a burden will be on Roberts. Branden Vincent and Lincoln Smith have been role players and need to show they can deliver quality minutes.

X-FACTOR: Power, a sweet shooter who averaged 13.6 points two years ago, could start. How quickly he knocks off the rust from sitting out and adjusts to his new team and league will be key to Mississippi State's success.

Bulldogs data

Coach: Rick Stansbury (100-60, 5 years; NCAA Tournament 1-2).
Assistant coaches: Robert Kirby (5 years), Phil Cunningham (3), Sam Weaver (1).
2002-03 record: 21-10. SEC West: 9-7/1st. Lost to Butler in NCAA East

first round.

Last regular-season title: 2003 (West Division).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.

Site: Starkville, Miss.

Home court: Humphrey Coliseum (10,500).

Website: www.mstateathletics.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
10	G	Errol Bennett	6-1/190	Sr.	0.3	0.3	—	25.0	—	—
20	G/F	Michael Boler	6-5/175	Fr.	Was redshirted because of knee injury.					
15	G	Timmy Bowers*	6-2/180	Sr.	14.6	3.8	3.0	46.8	75.0	41.2
3	G	Dennis Buse	6-0/180	Sr.	0.3	0.3	0.0	25.0	—	0.0
50	C	Marcus Campbell	7-0/255	Jr.	3.6	2.3	0.4	50.0	63.6	0.0
11	G	Gary Ervin	5-11/175	Fr.	Lightning-quick; was a star in NYC.					
23	G/F	Winsome Frazier	6-4/175	Jr.	6.3	1.6	0.8	43.5	83.3	33.7
31	F	Ontario Harper*	6-5/210	Jr.	7.4	4.9	1.5	41.5	71.4	24.7
21	G/F	Shane Power	6-4/210	Jr.	Transfer should excel from the perimeter.					
44	F	Lawrence Roberts	6-9/230	Jr.	15.2	10.4	1.5	42.1	68.4	26.2
22	G/F	Dietric Slater	6-3/190	Fr.	Left-handed wing player with versatility.					
34	C/F	Lincoln Smith	6-9/265	Sr.	1.6	1.3	0.0	35.5	52.6	—
32	F/C	Branden Vincent	6-8/235	Sr.	4.4	4.3	0.7	53.3	51.0	—

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
C	Mario Austin*	6-9/255	15.5	7.7	1.2	53.4	66.4	41.7
F	Michal Ignerski*	6-9/225	9.0	4.8	0.8	45.3	71.7	31.4
G	Derrick Zimmerman*	6-2/190	8.9	4.1	5.5	47.6	64.9	28.8

Schedule

D13	Xavier	J17	at LSU	F14	at Arkansas
N22	Tennessee-Martin	D16	at New Orleans	J21	at Florida
N26	South Alabama	D27	at Tulane	J24	Georgia
N29	at W. Kentucky	J3	at Ark.-Little Rock	J28	Tennessee
D1	McNeese State	J7	at Mississippi	J31	at Auburn
D3	La.-Monroe	J10	Arkansas	F7	Mississippi
D6	UAB	J13	Kentucky	F11	at South Carolina

2. Auburn

WHAT WE LIKE: Auburn will have a strong, athletic, experienced front line with the return of senior Kyle Davis, Brandon Robinson and Marco Killingsworth. Davis, the SEC's best shot blocker, will allow the Tigers to extend their defense and pressure opponents on the perimeter because of his menacing presence around the basket. Killingsworth and Robinson will provide offense inside. Killingsworth shot an SEC-best 55.0 percent from the field last season and is a tough rebounder. Robinson is a natural power forward but might get playing time at small forward. Auburn's inside players should get plenty of scoring opportunities with the return of junior point guard Lewis Monroe, who is steady and takes good care of the ball. In the Tigers' three NCAA Tournament games last season, Monroe had just four turnovers in 113 minutes.

WHAT SCARES US: The Tigers were a pleasant surprise last season, when they made the NCAA Tournament after being picked to finish fifth in the SEC West. Now Auburn is a marked team that is expected to win. The Tigers must do that without their best player last season, small forward Marquis Daniels, and shooting guard Derrick Bird, who helped to fuel the team's surprising NCAA run. Either Robinson must show enough perimeter skills to play small forward or junior college transfer Quinnett Brown must be ready to start. Junior Nathan Watson is the logical replacement for Bird at shooting guard.

X-FACTORS: Keeping Robinson healthy will be important. After the start of conference play last season, the Tigers were 10-6 when Robinson was full speed but 1-4 when he was slowed because of an ankle injury.

Tigers data

Coach: Cliff Ellis (172-111, 9 years; 520-333 overall, 28 years; NCAA Tournament 8-8).
Assistant coaches: Shannon Weaver (6 years), Charlton Young (6 years), Tracy Dildy (1).
2002-03 record: 22-12. SEC West:

8-8/T2nd. Lost to Syracuse in NCAA East semifinal.

Last regular-season title: 1999.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Auburn, Ala.

Home court: Beard-Eaves Memorial Coliseum (10,500).

Website: www.auburntigers.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
21	F	Quinnell Brown	6-6/210	Jr.	JC transfer shot 76 percent last season.					
44	C	Dwayne Curtis	6-9/235	Fr.	Averaged 12.0 rebounds as a H.S. senior.					
34	C	Kyle Davis*	6-10/235	Sr.	6.3	5.9	0.8	45.1	49.4	—
10	G	Troy Gaines	5-11/185	Jr.	4.7	1.1	1.0	30.2	65.6	34.8
4	F	Marco Killingsworth*	6-7/235	Jr.	13.3	6.4	1.0	55.0	68.5	36.1
33	G	Ronnie LeMelle	6-5/200	Jr.	JC transfer is a superb ballhandler.					
55	G	Chris Lollar	6-0/185	Sr.	1.0	0.7	1.1	28.1	57.1	20.0
12	G	Lewis Monroe*	6-5/190	Jr.	6.2	2.4	3.3	42.4	71.6	38.2
23	F	Brandon Robinson	6-8/215	Jr.	8.2	4.5	0.5	55.2	70.0	12.5
32	F	Rodney Tucker	6-8/235	Sr.	1.8	1.1	0.2	44.7	52.9	—
24	G	Nathan Watson	6-3/200	Jr.	5.9	3.2	1.6	36.5	59.1	36.9
3	G	Ian Young	6-3/200	Jr.	JC transfer can shoot, create and defend.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Derrick Bird*	6-4/195	9.8	2.9	1.5	41.0	81.2	36.6
F	Donny Calton	6-6/220	2.4	1.7	0.3	56.3	56.3	—
F	Marquis Daniels*	6-6/200	18.4	6.2	3.3	51.3	67.3	30.6

Schedule

D20	UNLV	J17	at Alabama	F18	at LSU
N23	Md.-Eastern Shore	D22	Georgia State	J21	Arkansas
N25	Sam Houston St.	D30	Southern Miss	J24	at Florida
D1	Colorado State	J2	New Orleans	J31	Mississippi
D7	Air Force	J7	at Vanderbilt	F4	at Arkansas
D10	Montana	J10	Mississippi	F7	Georgia
D14	TBA	J14	South Carolina	F14	at Mississippi

3. LSU

WHAT WE LIKE: LSU might have more talent this season despite losing three starters from last season's 21-11 NCAA Tournament team. Coach John Brady signed one of the top recruiting classes in the country, led by forwards Brandon Bass and Regis Koundjia and point guard Tack Minor. All three should contribute this season. Bass should team with senior forward Jaime Lloreda to give the Tigers a strong presence around the basket. Lloreda, a junior college transfer, became a starter last season but had to play his way into shape and learn the SEC's intensity level. Bass also has perimeter skills, but the Tigers need him inside. Minor will challenge junior Xavier Whipple for the starting point guard spot and figures to win it based on talent. He has the quickness to beat opponents off the dribble, a skill the Tigers have been lacking. A key will be how well Minor adjusts his game to fit what Brady wants.

WHAT SCARES US: The Tigers are counting heavily on young players. Their roster has a combined 10 freshmen and sophomores, and three freshmen might start. Yes, the freshman class is loaded, but the players are untested in the SEC and might try Brady's patience at times. Developing chemistry and new leaders will be vital to the Tigers' success. Minor, for one, has a reputation for being a me-first player. Lloreda also has maturity issues; he was suspended in the offseason for striking a teammate.

X-FACTOR: As a freshman, Antonio Hudson became a scoring threat, but he struggled last season when he lost his shooting touch and confidence. The Tigers need Hudson to bounce back with a strong junior season and be more aggressive on offense.

Tigers data

Coach: John Brady (102-81, 6 years; 191-158 overall, 12 years; NCAA Tournament 2-2).

Assistant coaches: Butch Pierre (6 years), Mike Giorlando (2), Rickey Broussard (1).

2002-03 record: 21-11. SEC West: 8-8/T2nd. Lost to Purdue in NCAA

South first round.

Last regular-season title: 2000 (West Division).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Baton Rouge, La.

Home court: Maravich Assembly Center (14,164).

Website: www.lsusports.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
43	G/F	Mildon Ambres	6-5/217	Fr.	Redshirt practiced with team last season.					
30	F	Brandon Bass	6-8/250	Fr.	Had 19.0 ppg, 14.0 rpg as H.S. senior.					
20	F	Tim Bush	6-6/258	So.	0.7	1.5	0.4	42.9	20.0	0.0
1	G	Tony Gipson	6-1/162	Jr.	4.5	0.9	0.4	50.0	50.0	40.0
42	G	Antonio Hudson	6-5/206	Jr.	7.5	2.9	1.9	40.4	67.8	30.3
4	F	Regis Koundjia	6-7/195	Fr.	Native of Central African Republic.					
35	F	Darnell Lazare	6-8/222	Fr.	Played high school ball in Baton Rouge.					
14	F	Jaime Lloreda*	6-9/246	Sr.	12.3	9.0	1.1	56.3	55.4	0.0
11	G	Josh Maravich	6-3/185	So.	0.6	0.0	0.0	100.0	—	—
3	G	Tack Minor	5-11/195	Fr.	Good bet to start at point guard.					
2	G	Darrel Mitchell	5-11/174	So.	7.0	2.2	1.8	41.3	73.2	42.4
45	F	Ross Neltner	6-8/225	Fr.	Was first-team all-state pick in Kentucky.					
22	G	Xavier Whipple*	6-2/170	Jr.	2.7	1.2	1.9	52.6	66.7	35.7

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Torris Bright*	6-4/195	11.1	3.1	4.7	45.9	72.7	40.8
F	Ronald Dupree*	6-7/210	15.8	7.8	2.4	52.9	67.9	35.1
G	Collis Temple III*	6-7/215	10.8	3.5	1.7	43.5	77.5	37.5

Schedule

D23	Tulane	J17	Mississippi St.	F14	at Florida
N21	Southern	D27	UAB*	J21	at Mississippi
N24	McNeese State	D30	at Houston	J24	at South Carolina
N26	Troy State	J3	at Centenary	J28	Georgia
N29	La.-Monroe	J6	at Arkansas	J31	at Alabama
D16	Utah	J10	Alabama	F4	Tennessee
D20	Southern Miss	J12	at New Orleans	F7	Arkansas
					*at New Orleans

Razorbacks data

Coach: Stan Heath (9-19, 1 year; 29-25 overall, 2 years; NCAA Tournament 3-1).

Assistant coaches: Rob Flaska (1 year), Oronde Talliaferro (1).

2002-03 record: 9-19; SEC West:

4-12/T5th.

Last regular-season title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Fayetteville, Ark.

Home court: Bud Walton Arena (19,200).

Website: www.hogwired.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
43	G	Jamar Blackmon	6-3/195	Sr.	0.7	0.4	0.3	33.3	80.0	33.3
10	G/F	Ronnie Brewer	6-6/190	Fr.	Son of former UA great Ron Brewer.					
12	G	Kendrick Davis	6-3/171	So.	10.3	2.0	1.4	37.9	79.1	33.9
23	G	Olu Famutimi	6-5/210	Fr.	Great athlete who scores many ways.					
11	G	Eric Ferguson*	6-1/196	So.	10.9	4.5	0.6	35.1	60.0	30.7
33	F	Vincent Hunter	6-9/195	Fr.	MVP of state Class 4A tournament.					
1	F	Michael Jones	6-9/220	Jr.	5.3	2.5	0.4	35.3	69.6	34.6
24	G	Jonathon Modica*	6-4/198	So.	11.5	4.5	0.6	46.4	65.9	36.0
2	G	Wenbos Mukubu	6-5/197	So.	Will back up at wing and forward.					
14	F	Billy Pharis	6-8/230	Sr.	Ark. native returns for final college season.					
20	F	Rashard Sullivan	6-8/221	So.	2.3	3.0	0.4	40.9	37.5	—
3	G	Charles Tatum	5-10/166	Sr.	Redshirted after tearing right ACL.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Carl Baker*	6-8/209	3.3	4.1	1.2	29.9	67.9	20.6
F	Dionisio Gomez*	6-8/218	8.3	6.6	1.1	46.7	55.7	35.3
F	Alonzo Lane*	6-7/246	4.0	2.9	0.5	38.2	67.5	—
F	Larry Satchell	6-9/227	3.2	3.8	0.3	29.9	39.4	—

Schedule

D20	Oklahoma State	J21	at Auburn	F21	South Carolina
N21	Nicholls State	D22	Western Carolina	J24	Vanderbilt
N25	Grambling State	D30	at Tulsa	J31	at Georgia
N29	Jacksonville*	J3	North Texas	F4	Auburn
D3	Oral Roberts	J6	LSU	F7	at LSU
D6	Illinois**	J10	at Mississippi St.	F11	at Tennessee
D9	SE Missouri St.	J14	at Alabama	F14	Mississippi St.
D17	Louisiana Tech	J17	Mississippi	F18	at Kentucky
					*at Little Rock
					**at Chicago

4. Arkansas

WHAT WE LIKE: Arkansas returns its top three scorers from last season in sophomore guards Jonathon Modica, Eric Ferguson and Kendrick Davis. It also added its best recruiting class in several years, led by guard Olu Famutimi and swingman Ronnie Brewer. After being the SEC's worst offensive team last season, the Razorbacks should feature improved scoring and ballhandling. Ferguson had his ups and downs as freshman starting point guard but should be better. Modica can score in bunches, and Brewer can play the point, shooting guard or small forward. Famutimi, a McDonald's All-American, underwent knee surgery in March to repair a torn ACL but is expected to be full speed this season.

WHAT SCARES US: Though the Razorbacks are more talented this season, they are a younger team that must rely heavily on freshmen and sophomores. Two seniors, guard Charles Tatum and forward Billy Pharis, are coming off redshirt seasons and must adapt to new teammates. Tatum has been a solid player in the past but is coming back from major knee surgery. Pharis is a transfer from SMU, where he was slowed by an ankle injury and played sparingly; he has to show he can contribute in the SEC. The team lacks experience and size inside. Sophomore Rashard Sullivan came on strong late last season but has to show more consistency. Junior forward Michael Jones must add strength, as does freshman Vincent Hunter. Julius Lamptey, a 7-0 freshman, was expected to play big minutes but didn't qualify academically.

X-FACTOR: The Razorbacks got a jump on the season by playing four exhibition games in Cancun, Mexico, over Labor Day weekend. More important than the games, Arkansas had 10 practices in August to help the team mesh.

5. Alabama

WHAT WE LIKE: Mark Gottfried contends that no SEC team lost more talent than his, and he may be correct. But sophomore forward Kennedy Winston could be a key in the rebuilding process. Winston struggled to fit in with a veteran team last season after being declared eligible in January, but he gradually became more comfortable. Winston should be the focal point of the offense. Senior Antoine Pettway, who previously provided instant offense off the bench, will take over at point guard following Maurice Williams' early departure to the NBA. Pettway distributes the ball well and is a good 3-point shooter. Junior Earnest Shelton and senior Emmett Thomas have scored well from the perimeter at times, but they now must provide consistent offense. Senior guard Demetrius Smith is a good defensive player and also can play the point. Alabama's 10 returning players got an early jump on the season when the team was allowed 10 practices in late July and early August before playing exhibition games in the Bahamas.

WHAT SCARES US: Erwin Dudley and Kenny Walker, the anchors of the inside game last season, are gone after starting the previous four years. There are no proven returning players inside, and the Tide will need immediate help from its five freshmen, including 6-10 Jemareo Davidson. Unfortunately for Alabama, its Bahamas tour came before school started, so the freshmen weren't able to participate in the extra practices or games.

X-FACTOR: Gottfried added a veteran with head coaching experience to his staff when he hired Tom Asbury as an assistant in April. Asbury, 57, had a 210-146 record at Pepperdine and Kansas State and is a defensive specialist who should help the Tide win some close games.

Crimson Tide data

Coach: Mark Gottfried (99-61, 5 years; 167-86 overall, 8 years; NCAA Tournament 1-4).

Assistant coaches: Philip Pearson (5 years), Orlando Early (2), Tom Asbury (1st).

2002-03 record: 17-12. SEC West:

7-9/4th. Lost to Indiana in NCAA Midwest first round.

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.

Site: Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Home court: Coleman Coliseum (15,316).

Website: www.rolltide.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
45	F	Akini Adkins	6-9/200	Fr.	Good athlete who could play right away.					
21	F	Evan Brock	6-8/200	So.	1.7	1.3	0.1	40.9	54.5	—
14	G	LaKory Daniels	6-1/180	Fr.	Will be groomed behind Pettway, Smith.					
33	F	Jemareo Davidson	6-10/210	Fr.	Could play a lot in his first season.					
1	F	Chuck Davis	6-7/230	So.	1.5	1.3	0.2	36.4	20.0	50.0
44	G/F	Justin Jonus	6-5/205	Fr.	Will play more at forward than guard.					
50	G	Antoine Pettway*	6-0/170	Sr.	6.3	2.5	2.5	41.5	81.8	43.6
4	F	Reggie Rambo	6-7/225	Sr.	1.1	1.4	0.2	36.8	50.0	0.0
5	G	Earnest Shelton	6-3/200	Jr.	4.9	2.8	0.9	36.1	50.0	33.3
23	G	Demetrius Smith	6-2/210	Sr.	0.5	0.8	0.3	30.0	0.0	33.3
32	C	Shawn Taylor	6-11/200	Fr.	Tide's tallest player needs to bulk up.					
2	F	Emmett Thomas	6-4/205	Sr.	6.0	2.2	1.1	40.3	64.3	32.0
3	F	Kennedy Winston*	6-6/205	So.	11.1	4.7	2.0	36.8	66.7	21.3

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F/C	Erwin Dudley*	6-8/240	14.8	9.5	1.1	51.8	71.7	33.3
F/C	Kenny Walker*	6-9/220	9.1	5.6	0.6	44.2	72.7	0.0
G	Maurice Williams*	6-1/183	16.4	3.9	3.9	40.9	83.8	31.7

Schedule

D20	Oregon*	J21	at Georgia	F18	Vanderbilt
N21	Louisiana Tech	D27	Mercer	J24	at Mississippi
N25	SE Louisiana	D30	Wisconsin	J27	Florida
N29	at Providence	J3	at Xavier	F31	LSU
D3	Charlotte	J10	at LSU	F4	at South Carolina
D6	Austin Peay	J14	Arkansas	F10	at Kentucky
D16	Chattanooga	J17	Auburn	F14	at Alabama
					*at Las Vegas

6. Mississippi

WHAT WE LIKE: Ole Miss returns its top two scorers in seniors Justin Reed and Aaron Harper. Reed has been one of the SEC's best low-post scorers the past three seasons, but he also may play small forward as his perimeter skills continue to improve. Last season, Reed shot 42.6 percent on 3-point attempts, and he will try to extend his shooting range this season. Harper is a streaky shooter who can carry the offense when he is hot, and, at 6-7, he is a tough defensive matchup on the perimeter for opponents. Although the Rebels will continue to run a motion offense, the shooting opportunities will be geared toward Reed and Harper. With two veteran scorers to build the team around, Ole Miss will try to bounce back from last season's 14-15 finish.

WHAT SCARES US: Excluding Reed and Harper, who averaged a combined 27.6 points last season, the Rebels have no player who averaged more than 2.4. Ole Miss has to develop a supporting cast on offense while finding a starting point guard and reliable inside players. Harper is capable of playing the point, but if he's running the offense, who besides Reed is going to take the shots? Junior college transfer Ed Glass and freshman Todd Abernethy are the top two candidates to start at the point, but each must prove he's ready to play in the SEC. Inside, the Rebels have a fifth-year senior in Richard Kirklin, but he red-shirted last season and two years ago averaged just 1.5 points. The other inside players are newcomers.

X-FACTOR: If Ole Miss, which has won three SEC West titles in the last eight years, is to return to the top of the division, it must do better in close games. Last season, the Rebels were 2-11 in games decided by eight or fewer points.

Rebels data

Coach: Rod Barnes (100-61, 5 years; NCAA Tournament 3-3).

Assistant coaches: Eric Bozeman (5 years), Wayne Brent (5), Grant Pate (1).

2002-03 record: 14-15. SEC West: 4-12/T5th.

Last regular-season title: 2001 (tie, West Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Oxford, Miss.

Home court: Tad Smith Coliseum (8,700).

Website: www.olemisssports.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
10	G	Todd Abernethy	6-1/190	Fr.	Averaged 28.1 ppg as Indiana H.S. senior.					
25	G	Bryan Brown	5-10/190	So.	0.1	0.1	0.4	12.5	0.0	0.0
5	F	Byron Burnett	6-9/250	Jr.	JC transfer slowed by bad back last year.					
20	G	Bam Doyno	6-4/170	Fr.	Was a three-time all-stater in Arkansas.					
44	F	Tommie Eddie	6-7/260	Jr.	JC transfer brings a wide body to post.					
4	F/G	Kendrick Fox	6-7/210	Jr.	0.9	0.5	0.1	36.8	100.0	30.8
24	G	Ed Glass	6-2/200	Jr.	JC transfer has inside track at point guard.					
1	F/G	Aaron Harper*	6-7/217	Sr.	12.2	3.7	2.1	43.9	72.6	40.6
54	F	Lonnie Jackson	6-8/198	So.	JC transfer has three seasons of eligibility.					
12	G	Justin Johnson	6-0/200	Jr.	2.4	0.6	0.5	38.3	50.0	38.5
45	F	Richard Kirklin	6-9/210	Sr.	Has started only nine of 95 games.					
3	F	Marvin Moore	6-6/220	Jr.	Had 23.1 ppg, 9.9 rpg in JC ranks last year.					
23	F	Justin Reed*	6-8/240	Sr.	15.4	5.3	1.1	48.8	73.0	42.6
33	F	Chris Rhodes	6-7/220	So.	1.0	1.1	0.1	53.8	66.7	0.0

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Derrick Allen*	6-8/238	8.2	4.9	0.5	50.0	72.6	0.0
G	Trey Pearson*	6-4/165	4.7	2.9	2.7	50.0	65.4	43.2
G	David Sanders*	6-3/185	10.1	3.9	3.1	43.6	77.9	35.4
G	Emmanuel Wade	6-3/185	8.5	2.7	1.9	48.0	73.1	35.0

Schedule

Schedule		D17	at Evansville	J17	at Arkansas	F14	Auburn
N21	Arkansas State	D20	La.-Monroe	J21	LSU	F18	at Tennessee
N25	Centenary	D22	Jacksonville St.	J24	Alabama	F21	Florida
N29	SE Louisiana	D30	Alabama State	J28	at Kentucky	F25	Vanderbilt
D3	at Florida State	J3	Nicholls State	J31	South Carolina	F28	at Alabama
D6	East Carolina	J7	Mississippi St.	F4	at Georgia	M3	at LSU
D13	Memphis	J10	at Auburn	F7	at Mississippi St.	M6	Arkansas

CONFERENCE USA

A redesigned schedule adds spice for what may be the last hurrah

It isn't true Conference USA will market its 2003-04 season with a new slogan: Everything Must Go.

Louisville fans will not skip the C-USA tournament to spend their weekend at Madison Square Garden on a scouting trip for 2005. And it's probably just a joke when one of Memphis coach John Calipari's buddies in the business teases him about becoming the highest-paid coach in the Ohio Valley Conference.

But remember that old line from George Allen, "The future is now"? In C-USA, it's now—or never.

The chain reaction of conference expansion ignited by the ACC no doubt ruined C-USA's future, just when it started to seem there might be one. In the 2002-03 season, Marquette generated a little history for the league by reaching the Final Four and a good deal of respect by defeating the champions of the Big Ten, ACC, SEC and Big East. Louisville rose as high as No. 2 in the wire-service polls. Cincinnati reached a 12th consecutive NCAA Tournament. Memphis made it to the show for the first time since 1996, ending one of the program's longer recent droughts.

All that seems about to implode, but for now, the league actually has a touch of new life. It will be conducting its competition with a redesigned schedule in which all teams play each other at least once, and teams are assigned three designated "rivals" they will play on a home-and-home basis.

This will completely distort the integrity of the regular-season championship. There will be no balance whatsoever to the schedules each contender plays. But at least there no longer will be the National Division black hole from which only two teams in six years reached the NCAA Tournament.

Conference USA hasn't been around long enough nor achieved sufficient success to make anyone but its employees fret about its current quandary. What seemed a promising

Jason Maxiell

2002-03 team statistics

Offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Louisville	32	46.3	69.6	36.2	38.1	16.5	7.4	4.6	13.3	81.6
Marquette	33	48.2	77.1	39.8	36.6	16.2	6.0	3.5	13.3	78.5
UAB	34	44.5	68.2	33.0	35.0	15.0	11.6	2.9	14.5	77.6
TCU	28	42.5	68.1	32.3	38.3	14.4	6.9	2.1	15.4	76.6
Memphis	30	43.5	65.4	34.4	40.1	16.4	7.2	5.1	13.7	74.4
Tulane	31	46.8	66.4	36.0	35.2	15.8	7.8	3.3	14.5	71.1
South Florida	29	43.4	63.7	34.5	38.1	15.9	8.8	4.7	15.2	69.0
Charlotte	29	39.6	63.4	33.3	37.9	14.5	8.5	2.0	13.7	68.4
Cincinnati	29	40.4	69.0	34.4	35.5	12.3	5.2	4.3	10.6	67.4
DePaul	29	44.2	71.9	33.5	37.1	13.0	5.8	2.0	14.8	67.2
Southern Miss	29	41.1	68.7	28.5	37.8	13.1	6.3	3.4	15.4	66.9
East Carolina	27	41.4	68.8	27.9	38.1	12.2	5.0	3.7	12.9	65.2
Saint Louis	30	43.1	65.3	33.9	30.3	12.2	6.1	2.5	10.9	60.7
Houston	28	40.3	66.0	30.4	37.6	10.8	5.2	4.4	17.4	58.2

Defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Saint Louis	30	41.7	71.7	32.9	33.6	11.0	5.3	3.2	12.2	60.7
Cincinnati	29	40.1	66.9	34.8	35.3	11.8	4.1	3.0	13.8	61.9
DePaul	29	42.0	70.4	32.5	30.2	13.9	6.8	3.6	13.1	64.9
East Carolina	27	40.6	72.8	32.6	35.3	11.7	5.3	2.7	12.2	65.1
Houston	28	40.6	62.8	30.8	36.4	15.5	8.9	2.8	11.0	66.2
Memphis	30	40.6	64.8	32.4	36.0	13.5	7.3	3.2	14.9	66.4
Tulane	31	42.3	71.0	32.5	35.1	14.5	7.8	3.5	15.0	67.5
South Florida	29	39.9	68.3	31.5	38.4	14.7	7.1	2.4	14.9	68.0
Louisville	32	40.7	69.0	31.0	36.0	12.2	5.7	2.4	17.3	68.7
Marquette	33	41.6	69.2	33.2	32.3	16.2	6.0	3.5	13.3	69.2
Charlotte	29	44.3	71.0	38.7	36.9	13.7	5.2	3.4	15.5	69.9
Southern Miss	29	44.7	64.9	33.4	36.2	12.5	8.7	3.3	14.7	70.1
UAB	34	44.0	67.8	32.3	40.4	14.2	6.8	4.1	21.3	72.9
TCU	28	47.4	66.7	33.2	37.7	18.1	7.1	5.0	14.7	80.4

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
American Division				
Marquette	14	2	27	6
Louisville	11	5	25	7
Cincinnati	9	7	17	12
Saint Louis	9	7	16	14
DePaul	8	8	16	13
Charlotte	8	8	13	15
East Carolina	3	13	12	15
National Division				
Memphis	13	3	23	7
UAB	8	8	21	13
Tulane	8	8	16	15
South Florida	7	9	15	14
Houston	6	10	8	20
Southern Miss	5	11	13	16
TCU	3	13	9	19

Predictions

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Cincinnati* | 9. Houston |
| 2. Louisville* | 10. Southern Miss |
| 3. Marquette* | 11. South Florida |
| 4. Memphis* | 12. East Carolina |
| 5. Charlotte | 13. Tulane |
| 6. UAB | 14. TCU |
| 7. DePaul | *NCAA Tournament pick |
| 8. Saint Louis | |

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Travis Diener, Marquette	6-1	165	Jr.
G	Morris Finley, UAB	5-11	165	Sr.
F/C	Scott Merritt, Marquette	6-10	245	Sr.
F	Nate Daniels, Louisville	6-8	215	Jr.
F	Jason Maxiell, Cincinnati	6-7	240	Jr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Demon Brown, Charlotte	6-1	195	Sr.
G	Antonio Burks, Memphis	6-0	200	Sr.
F	Francisco Garcia, Louisville	6-7	175	So.
F	Steve Novak, Marquette	6-10	215	So.
F/C	Charles Gaines, Southern Miss	6-7	220	Sr.

Player spotlight

Player of the year

Travis Diener

He might not be the best player in the league, and he's certainly not the biggest, but Diener is more valuable than anyone. He doesn't just find ways to win—he creates them. It's possible his stature leads opponents to underestimate him, even after they see him put up huge numbers and make big plays on tape. Some opponents suspected Diener would be a weak link last season. He ended up a Final Four point guard.

Newcomer of the year

Brendan Plavich, G, Charlotte

You've heard before about workout wonders who tear up practices while they're ineligible during transfer years. But when is the last time somebody became the team captain in that situation? Charlotte has had great shooters on the wing before: Jobey Thomas, Diego Guevara. It's possible Plavich is the most consistent threat Bobby Lutz has coached, and Plavich will have more help with the 49ers than he did while hitting 44.1 percent of his 3-pointers as a Vanderbilt freshman.

Most underrated

Morris Finley

His team won five postseason games last season, and he came within a whisker of averaging 20 points, but Finley barely is known even in Birmingham. At 5-11, he is a horrendous matchup for most shooting guards and terrifically accurate from long range. If you're wondering if he can do it against the big names, last season he outscored Marcus Hatten of St. John's, 25-15, and outgunned Marquette All-American Dwyane Wade, 23-11.

concoction in the mid-1990s—seven of the original 12 members had made Final Four appearances—disintegrated soon after it was born. Marquee programs Louisville and Memphis suffered through coaching crises, and the conference's administration focused attention on propping up a middling football league instead of fulfilling the league's basketball potential.

And there was nearly as much bad luck (Cincinnati All-American Kenyon Martin breaking his leg with the Bearcats ranked No. 1 in March 2000) as there was poor decision-making (then-commissioner Mike Slive pushing through expansion to include TCU and East Carolina in all sports).

This might not be the league's last lap, but things will change soon. For some, it will be for the better. C-USA could have been something special. This is one of the last chances to prove that.

ASCENDING: UAB. Who could have seen that coming? Entering the league tournament, the Blazers had lost three straight, by an average of 13 points. In the postseason, they reached the C-USA final and NIT quarters and topped 80 points four times. The Blazers' athleticism and energy became huge factors late in the season. There's enough juice left in the press for UAB to push for another postseason run.

DESCENDING: Tulane. The Green Wave wasn't in super shape a year ago, when it went 3-11 on the road and barely squeezed

above the .500 mark. That team lost 71 percent of the scoring and 67 percent of its rebounds. No returning player averaged more than 6.9 points. The administration rejected a proposed drop to the NCAA Division III level. This program seems determined to get there anyway.

PLAYERS ON THE RISE

1. Antonio Burks, G, Memphis. Calipari keeps promising great things from Burks, who delivers solid numbers in every category but minutes played. Last season, Burks failed to reach the 30-minute mark in 13 of the 25 games he played. Some of that was because of foul trouble, but Calipari has to give his point guard greater control of the ball if he wants Burks—and his team—to excel.

2. Jason Maxiell, F, Cincinnati. This was supposed to happen last year but was delayed because opponents threw everything at Maxiell. He should become center Robert Whaley's best buddy. If UC can keep Whaley straight, Maxiell will have plenty of offensive freedom and rebounding chances.

3. Curtis Withers, F, Charlotte. Although his offense needs work, Withers is the sort of hard-playing baseliner who can work himself to success. His freshman year progress was hampered by a slight knee injury, but he recovered to grab seven or more rebounds in 11 of his final 13 games.

TSN

E-mail senior writer Mike DeCourcy at decourcy@sportingnews.com.

RANKING THE 2003 RECRUITING CLASSES

By Mike Sullivan, Rivals.com

- 1. DePaul.** Wesley Green is a great pickup for a class that is tremendous from top to bottom.
- 2. Louisville.** Brandon Jenkins, Nate Daniels and Nouha Diakite will thrive in Rick Pitino's uptempo style.
- 3. Cincinnati.** If everyone is available to play, this could one of the country's best classes.
- 4. Memphis.** The Tigers' talented recruits eventually can be very good college players.
- 5. Marquette.** Added instant size in Marcus Jackson and promise in underrated Dameon Mason.
- 6. Charlotte.** Class' success depends on the progress of Martin Ili, who could dominate the low post.
- 7. Southern Mississippi.** The team's four recruits are expected to elevate the program this season.
- 8. UAB.** The team will count on Donell and Ronell Taylor for the next few years.
- 9. Houston.** Wing Andrew Francis could be a big-time player by the time he finishes college.
- 10. Tulane.** Vincent Camper and Troy Aaron will be effective on both ends of the court.
- 11. East Carolina.** Quick backcourt of Mike Cook and Japhet McNeil will create woes for opponents.
- 12. Saint Louis.** Former Villanova guard Reggie Bryant should help the backcourt.
- 13. South Florida.** Konimba Diarra's improvement the past two years gives the team hope.
- 14. TCU.** Femi Ibikunle is raw but promising; his growth will determine this class' final grade.

Best bets

1. With no divisions in place, somebody is going to finish 14th. That isn't good for the resume. The coach lodged at the bottom of the league will be Tulane's Shawn Finney, who should have jumped at the Marshall job when he had the opportunity.

2. When the college coaching change season arrives, Marquette's Tom Crean will see his name in the paper more often than Alan Greenspan. Crean will be cited as a candidate for every open major conference job, though none will be as attractive as the

Illinois job he declined to pursue last April and none will lure him from Milwaukee. If the NBA calls, that could change things.

3. After he sits the first semester to complete his year of residence following a transfer from Florida, and after sitting out a suspension for playing in an unsanctioned summer game, and after he runs stadium stairs for being dumb enough to accept the invitation to play that game, small forward James White will make his debut for Cincinnati. The over/under on the time that will pass before his first dunk is 3 minutes, 20 seconds.

1. Cincinnati

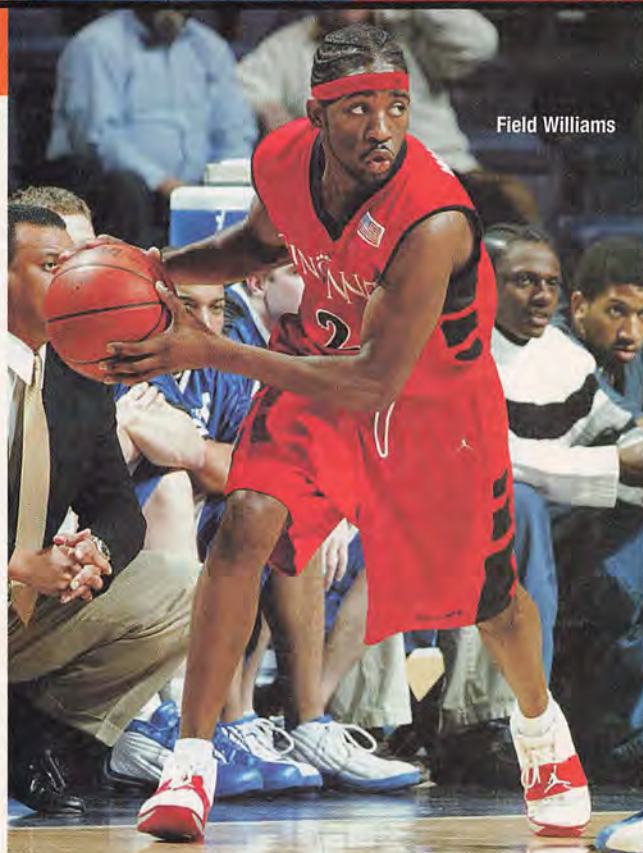
WHAT WE LIKE: The Bearcats are two-deep at every position except center. Last year, they were no-deep at three of the five spots. No fewer than four players were auditioned at center, and each flopped like a bad sitcom. A program that built itself on rebounding averaged only 0.2 more than opponents. Center Robert Whaley, a junior college transfer, might fix that problem by himself. He once was among the most gifted prep prospects, then wrecked his career with a series of off-court problems. Understand, Whaley doesn't have

to be great. First, he just has to show up. The Bearcats were so horrid in the post last year that if Whaley can play 28 minutes a game and average 12 points and eight rebounds, they'll be ecstatic. He's capable of more, if he devotes himself to the sport. Whaley will make Jason Maxiell more effective; Maxiell fought frontcourt defenses alone as a sophomore. James White, a transfer from Florida, thrilled UC coaches with athleticism and unselfishness in practice last spring. White is hungry to prove himself after struggling with the Gators. Nick Williams, who started as a freshman at Kansas State, could win the point guard job. But he'll have to beat out sophomore Chadd Moore, who has a knack for making Cincinnati's offense click. Shooting guard Tony Bobbitt did not adjust well in his first year out of junior college, but he's a dynamic athlete who can score points in bunches. A quarter of his points last season came in two games, upset victories over top 10 teams Oregon and Louisville.

WHAT SCARES US: Whaley has been volatile enough during the course of the past half-dozen years to always be one foolish decision away from wrecking this team. That decision could occur in his

personal life, or he could struggle to adapt to Huggins' demands. Or, he could wind up in foul trouble too often, a scenario the Bearcats can accommodate only occasionally. They will go from extraordinary to ordinary without Whaley. He represents their only hope for a significant physical presence in the middle and the only hope to lessen the defensive attention accorded Maxiell. For his part, Maxiell must gain greater comfort attacking the goal with power moves instead of constantly relying on his baseline turnaround jumper. It's a tough shot to block because he spins into it, the opposite of what most players find comfortable, but it has become too predictable. White already has shown a high degree of carelessness by participating in the And 1 Mix Tape Tour game in Cincinnati, a decision that endangered his eligibility. Cincinnati rarely is proficient from 3-point range, and this team isn't likely to change that reputation. White will be streaky, Field Williams even more so. Part of the reason the Bearcats don't shoot consistently is they don't generate quality shots. Their offensive schemes tend to meander, and the players rarely commit to running hard on the break. Although Nick Williams and Moore give the Bearcats two options at the point, neither is a sure thing. Moore hasn't played enough. Williams hasn't played enough in games that matter—his Kansas State team wasn't very good—and he had offseason foot surgery that limited the time he could spend conditioning and working on his game.

X-FACTOR: There is a particular way of doing things with Huggins. Players must devote themselves to conditioning and preparation. Defense and rebounding are not optional. Any failure in these areas is dealt with harshly. Some players react immediately to Huggins' approach. Most take a while to gain comfort. This team has a low supply of players who have demonstrated an ability to manage Huggins' demands. White, Nick Williams and Whaley haven't yet played for Huggins. Moore didn't get much playing time last year because he rarely delivered in practice, and Huggins refused to reward him, even at the cost of a functional offense. Bobbitt went in and out of favor. If the players respond to Huggins, the team could start strong and go from there. But there's no veteran leader to facilitate that. —M.D.



Field Williams

A C-USA coach says: Motivation is going to be big. After last year, Bob Huggins won't be happy, and they may be back with a nastier attitude. I still like Jason Maxiell; he just didn't have help inside. With Robert Whaley, it will be more difficult to double-team Maxiell. James White is probably the best athlete in Conference USA. Their biggest concern is point guard. Chadd Moore is good, not great. They may see some zone. Nick Williams will help with shooting. Tony Bobbitt—maybe he's matured a little. They'll be more like they used to be, where they'd jam it down your throat and rebound it.

Bearcats data

Coach: Bob Huggins (349-112, 14 years; 517-184 overall, 22 years; NCAA Tournament 18-13).

Assistant coaches: Dan Peters (4 years), Keith LeGree (3), Andy Kennedy (2).

2002-03 record: 17-12. C-USA American; 9-7/T3rd. Lost to Gonzaga

in NCAA West first round.

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1991.

Site: Cincinnati.

Home court: Shoemaker Center (13,176).

Website: www.ucbearcats.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
15	G	Tony Bobbitt	6-4/185	Sr.	8.0	1.8	0.7	36.7	83.3	33.1
14	F	Eric Hicks	6-6/230	So.	2.5	3.6	0.2	44.4	47.1	0.0
42	C	Kareem Johnson*	6-7/250	Sr.	2.4	4.3	0.0	47.5	38.1	—
33	G/F	Armein Kirkland	6-8/195	So.	3.4	2.0	0.6	34.8	83.3	30.0
10	G	Jamaal Lucas	6-2/190	Jr.	0.7	0.3	0.3	55.6	55.6	100.0
54	F	Jason Maxiell*	6-7/240	Jr.	11.9	6.7	0.4	44.5	67.2	0.0
1	G	Chadd Moore	6-2/175	So.	2.6	0.7	1.6	39.5	69.2	33.3
	F	Mike Pilgrim	6-7/210	Fr.						
30	C	A. Souleymane	6-9/225	Fr.						
45	C	Robert Whaley	6-10/260	Jr.						
21	F	James White	6-7/190	So.						
2	G	Field Williams*	6-3/190	Sr.	11.6	2.0	0.8	34.0	90.7	34.4
5	G	Nick Williams	6-3/185	Jr.						

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Taron Barker*	6-1/200	6.8	4.5	5.0	40.4	64.6	43.7
F	Rod Flowers	6-8/235	3.1	2.5	0.2	43.8	57.1	16.7
G	Leonard Stokes*	6-6/195	15.7	4.8	3.2	42.8	70.8	26.8

2. Louisville

WHAT WE LIKE: This team has an abundance of high-character players in forwards Francisco Garcia, Luke Whitehead and Ellis Myles and guard Taquan Dean. There will be no nonsense with these guys. Although the Cardinals lose a significant leader in point guard Reece Gaines, they will miss his scoring and playmaking most. They can replace the intangibles. The necessary depth for coach Rick Pitino's pressure defense to work is present, and the veterans have learned the nuances of playing his style of ball. The

Schedule

N29	Iowa*
D4	Western Kentucky**
D7	Holy Cross
D10	Seton Hall
D13	Florida
D20	TBA
D23	VMI
D27	at Kentucky
D30	Toledo
J3	Murray State
J7	Southern Miss.
J10	at South Florida
J15	at East Carolina
J17	Tulane
J21	Cincinnati
J25	at Tennessee
J28	Houston
J31	Marquette
F4	at Memphis
F7	UAB
F12	at Charlotte
F18	at TCU
F21	at Cincinnati
F25	DePaul
F28	Memphis
M3	at Saint Louis
M6	at Marquette
*at Indianapolis	
**at Nashville	

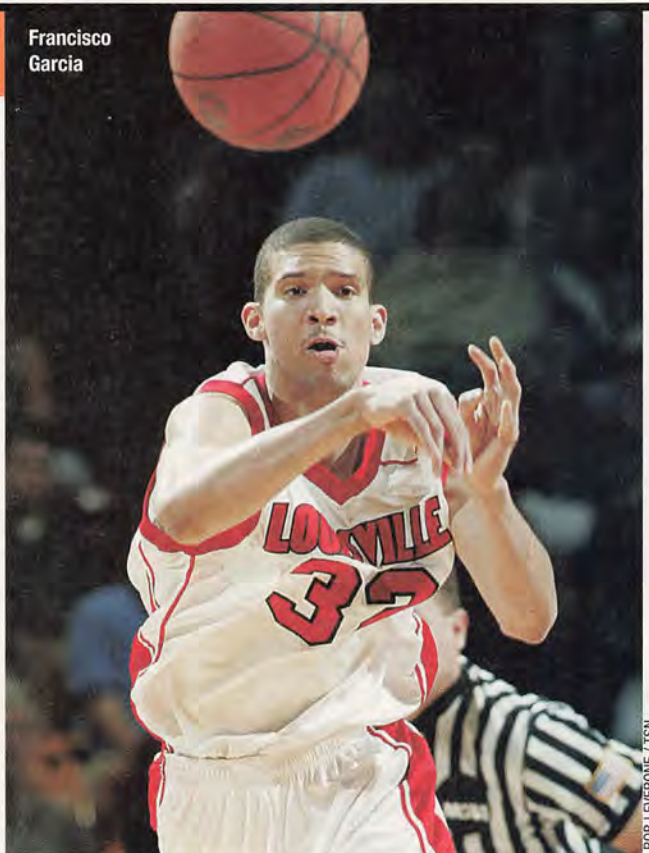
Cardinals are a little light on serious post threats, but there are eight players who can be expected to average at least 15 minutes and four who will be dangerous from 3-point range. Small forward Nate Daniels, a transfer from Broward Community College in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., might be as significant an addition as any player this side of Duke's Luol Deng. Daniels can become Louisville's No. 1 option and bring a more varied approach to that role than Gaines, who primarily was a jump shooter. Louisville is counting on Daniels to make shots and convert putbacks and, on occasion, to post up smaller defenders. Kendall Dartz is highly skilled and simply needs to play with authority in the post. He did not have the shooting range coaches had hoped he would, but he is able to make jumpers in the lane and make plays under late-game pressure. Dean and Garcia were effective as freshmen and should make significant improvements. Both need to be stronger and more consistent, but the confidence that comes with a year of experience should produce that result.

WHAT SCARES US: The Cardinals are back to wondering what will happen at point guard, and they'll be relying almost entirely on freshman Brandon Jenkins. He has nice size and athleticism for the position and played a sound, controlled game as

a high schooler in Detroit. But it's a challenge to handle this job at the high-major level, especially in a high-energy system that can leave players fatigued and perhaps lead them to late-game mental lapses. Pitino trains his teams to avoid such mistakes, but it takes a while for a freshman to learn. The interior defense wasn't very good last year. It's hard to picture this team improving much in that regard. Departed Marvin Stone at least could discourage opponents from attacking the goal because of his size. Unless junior college transfer Nouha Diakite progresses rapidly—and that's a stretch, given Dartz's gradual improvement—there is no imposing back-line defender. Myles tore a patellar tendon late last season, which hurt Louisville in the NCAA Tournament and could linger into this year. Myles was the soul of last season's team. He provides muscle and can wrestle in four or five baskets a game. If he is diminished, so are the Cardinals. With the 3-point shot such an important part of Pitino's approach, it would be nice if there were more players who are consistent from long range. Garcia is the only player on the roster who has made more than 36 percent of his 3-pointers in his career. Dean should be a very good shooter, but that hasn't happened yet.

X-FACTORS: Pitino's system of fullcourt pressure defense is designed to make scouting less a factor by forcing opponents into situations they can't anticipate by watching film or having faced the scheme previously. But it didn't work that way last season. Five of Louisville's seven losses were in Conference USA games—and four of those were rematches of earlier Cardinals victories. Louisville can't just continue to improve as a pressing team. It also must become a more decisive and efficient squad in halfcourt play, at both ends. Allowing Butler guard Darnell Archey nine open 3-pointers in the NCAA Tournament (he made eight) was an example of the team's need to continue improving as a halfcourt team. —M.D.

Francisco Garcia



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

A C-USA coach says: Each game, you have to prepare for 11 or 12 guys. They play so hard and so fast. Francisco Garcia is going to be a great player. He's already good, but he'll make a step up. Nate Daniels is a 6-8 wing who can really shoot. The way they make you play, you've got to make more shots than they make. You never, ever feel comfortable playing against them because of their ability to come back. I think they have enough inside. If there's a post player who can beat them, they double him quickly. And they make it a fullcourt game, so it's hard to get your post involved.

Cardinals data

Coach: Rick Pitino (44-20, 2 years; 396-144 overall, 16 years; NCAA Tournament 27-8; won NCAA title with Kentucky in 1996).

Assistant coaches: Vince Taylor (5 years), Kevin Willard (3), Mick Cronin (2), Reggie Theus (1st).

2002-03 record: 25-7, C-USA

American: 11-5/2nd. Lost to Butler in NCAA East second round.

Last regular-season title: 1994 (Metro). **Last time didn't make NCAA field:** 2002.

Site: Louisville.

Home court: Freedom Hall (18,865).

Website: www.uoflsports.com

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
30	F/G	Nate Daniels	6-8/215	Jr.	Led team to 24-5 JC record last year.					
1	C/F	Kendall Dartz	6-10/225	Sr.	4.4	3.0	0.5	52.5	60.0	12.5
10	G	Prileu Davis	6-3/180	Sr.	0.4	0.4	0.1	16.7	100.0	0.0
5	G	Taquan Dean*	6-3/175	So.	8.8	3.4	1.6	39.5	73.1	35.7
4	C	Nouha Diakite	6-10/215	Jr.	Blocked 79 shots in two JC seasons.					
32	F	Francisco Garcia	6-7/175	So.	11.2	2.9	2.1	48.8	89.1	42.5
52	F	Otis George	6-9/195	Jr.	2.9	1.9	0.4	54.4	64.0	22.2
11	G	Brandon Jenkins	6-3/175	Fr.	Much will be expected of him.					
13	G	Alhaji Mohammed	6-3/195	Sr.	1.9	0.8	0.6	43.5	65.0	20.0
2	F	Ellis Myles*	6-8/235	Sr.	7.8	7.9	1.8	58.8	56.3	0.0
34	F	Larry O'Bannon	6-4/195	Jr.	2.7	1.1	0.6	37.5	66.7	23.7
23	G	Coric Riggs	6-3/190	Jr.	0.8	0.0	0.0	100.0	—	100.0
0	F	Joshua Tinch	6-4/215	Jr.	0.4	1.1	0.0	50.0	0.0	—
24	F	Luke Whitehead	6-7/220	Sr.	9.0	5.4	1.5	48.6	77.4	33.3

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Erik Brown*	6-5/210	6.9	2.3	1.0	46.7	83.3	41.9
G	Reece Gaines*	6-6/205	17.9	2.9	5.0	46.1	73.6	38.9
C	Marvin Stone*	6-10/240	10.2	7.1	1.4	51.8	60.0	33.3

3. Marquette

WHAT WE LIKE: Has any team with Travis Diener not been great? The Golden Eagles are 53-13 with him on the roster, and his high school team was 70-9. Diener wins because he does not relent or retreat from pressure. He is a clever point guard who can shoot coming off screens or pulling up in transition. His passes aren't dazzling, but they find their targets. Center Scott Merritt seems perpetually on the verge of greatness. He never quite gets there, but he's productive as he flirts with it. Forward Steve Novak is among Division I's best long-range shooters. Coach Tom Crean is the sort who can disguise whatever is missing on the roster.

WHAT SCARES US: Dwyane Wade was not an ordinary player. He ranks with the greatest in Marquette history, someone who enhanced teammates by drawing extra attention and by sharing the basketball. Wade also was a terrific defender and rebounder. Who can replace such a force? Novak certainly is capable of doubling his freshman scoring average, but he'll have to defend better to deserve the minutes required to score more. Wade's position might wind up in the hands of a freshman, Dameon Mason. Joe Chapman and Karon Bradley were important players on the Final Four team, but they seem best suited to reserve roles. The team also is missing power forward Robert Jackson and has no experienced replacement. JC transfer Marcus Jackson gets first shot.

X-FACTOR: Though it's not uncommon for teams to make consecutive trips to the Final Four, it's usually because they remain great from year to year. Marquette has lost plenty of talent, but the confidence the Final Four experience can create has the potential to make a difference. Players don't wonder whether a drill or strategy will make a difference. They've seen it work. —M.D.

Golden Eagles data

Coach: Tom Crean (83-41, 4 years; NCAA Tournament 4-2).
Assistant coaches: Jeff Strohm (1 year), Bo Ellis (1st), Kyle Green (1st).
2002-03 record: 27-6. C-USA American: 14-2/1st. Lost to Kansas

in NCAA semifinal.

Last regular-season title: 2003 (American Division).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.

Site: Milwaukee.

Home court: Bradley Center (19,150).

Website: www.gomarquette.com

Roster

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter										
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
21	G	Brandon Bell	5-11/180	Fr.	Another major-college player from Flint, Mich.					
10	G	Karon Bradley	5-11/180	So.	1.7	0.4	0.6	31.6	60.0	44.0
32	G	Joe Chapman	6-4/200	So.	2.3	1.3	0.6	43.7	33.3	45.2
2	G	Carlton Christian	6-5/175	Fr.	Well-rounded and will get minutes.					
34	G	Travis Diener*	6-1/165	Jr.	11.8	3.2	5.6	39.6	81.3	36.3
42	F	Andy Freund	6-8/220	Fr.	Wisconsin native coming off redshirt year.					
23	G	Tony Gries	5-10/170	So.	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	75.0	0.0
33	F/C	Chris Grimm	6-10/235	So.	0.9	0.6	0.1	60.0	58.3	—
35	F	Marcus Jackson	6-8/240	Jr.	Rugged interior player who can bang.					
30	G/F	Dameon Mason	6-5/180	Fr.	Illinois Mr. Basketball runner-up.					
4	F	James Matthews	6-8/240	Fr.	Gets up and down the floor very well.					
5	F/C	Scott Merritt*	6-10/245	Sr.	10.1	6.6	1.5	47.0	77.7	10.0
20	F	Steve Novak	6-10/215	So.	6.7	2.2	0.5	50.4	93.9	50.5
40	F	Terry Sanders	6-8/225	Sr.	2.6	2.7	0.4	53.3	62.9	—
12	G	Jared Sichting	6-0/160	So.	0.6	0.3	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1	F	Todd Townsend*	6-7/215	Jr.	5.8	2.7	1.8	45.1	65.9	38.1

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Robert Jackson*	6-10/260	15.4	7.5	0.8	55.7	77.9	—
G	Dwyane Wade*	6-4/210	21.5	6.3	4.4	50.1	77.9	31.8

Schedule

Schedule	D22	Florida A&M	J20	at Charlotte	F18	at Saint Louis	
N21-22 Blue & Gold Cl.	D29	Sacred Heart	J24	DePaul	F21	Tulane	
D1	Notre Dame	J7	at Houston	J31	at Louisville	F26	at South Florida
D5	Grambling	J10	Saint Louis	F3	TCU	F28	at UAB
D13	at Arizona	J14	Cincinnati	F7	at DePaul	M3	East Carolina
D20	at Wisconsin	J17	at Southern Miss	F14	Memphis	M6	Louisville

4. Memphis

WHAT WE LIKE: Led by senior point guard Antonio Burks, the Tigers return their entire backcourt from last season's team, which peaked late before falling in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. A local player who was sometimes erratic early in his career, Burks seems to have grasped what coach John Calipari wants from him. As long as he remembers he's at his best when he keeps a pass-first mind-set, Memphis could be good enough to finish near the top of Conference USA again. Anthony Rice, a solid shooter, and Jeremy Hunt, a versatile gym rat, also bring experience to the guard position.

WHAT SCARES US: When Kendrick Perkins decided it made more sense to be a millionaire directly out of high school than go to college first, Memphis became extremely light up front. Trying to replace Chris Massie in the middle wasn't going to be easy anyway, but instead of moving a McDonald's All-American into the lineup, the Tigers will try to get by with Duane Erwin, a 6-9 junior who averaged 2.1 points and 3.0 rebounds last season. If Almamy Thiero is healthy after missing almost all of his freshman season with a stress fracture in his leg and if signee Ivan Lopez shows promise, Memphis will improve a bit in the paint.

X-FACTOR: The Tigers' top incoming recruit is Sean Banks, a wing from New Jersey who comes to campus with a lot of baggage. A consensus top 25 national prospect, Banks was arrested twice during the latter part of his senior year. Regardless, Calipari is accepting the versatile scorer while saying a change of scenery will turn the player's life around. If things work out, Banks could turn the Tigers' season into a success because he is just as talented as he is troubled. —G.P.

Tigers data

Coach: John Calipari (71-31, 3 years; 264-102 overall, 11 years; NCAA Tournament 11-6).
Assistant coaches: Tony Barbee (3 years), Derek Kellogg (3), Ed Schilling (1st).
2002-2003 record: 23-7. C-USA

National: 13-3/1st. Lost to Arizona State in NCAA West first round.

Last regular-season title: 2003 (National Division).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Memphis.

Home court: The Pyramid (20,142).

Website: www.getigersgo.com

Roster

Roster			*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
	F	Sean Banks	6-8/210	Fr.	Will he come through on and off the court?					
55	F	Arthur Barclay	6-8/230	Jr.	Missed last season with knee problems.					
1	G	Antonio Burks*	6-0/200	Sr.	9.7	2.0	5.6	47.8	71.4	28.6
10	F	Rodney Carney*	6-7/205	So.	9.8	4.8	1.1	42.9	64.2	36.2
45	C	Modibo Diarra	6-11/240	Sr.	1.0	1.7	0.2	50.0	50.0	—
11	F	Duane Erwin	6-9/242	Jr.	2.1	3.0	0.5	53.1	44.0	0.0
14	G	Garrick Green	6-1/160	So.	Bench guy is a team favorite.					
5	G	Jeremy Hunt	6-4/195	So.	9.4	2.5	2.5	35.3	59.8	34.8
	F	Ivan Lopez	6-9/245	Fr.	Playing time is available for him.					
23	G	Anthony Rice*	6-4/205	Jr.	8.8	2.8	2.4	38.0	60.0	36.6
12	G	Billy Richmond	6-5/207	Jr.	8.5	3.5	1.8	40.1	47.8	23.1
15	F	Almamy Thiero	6-10/258	Fr.	Played 2 minutes last season.					
0	G	Clyde Wade	6-0/180	So.	1.4	0.6	1.2	36.1	66.7	16.7
	F	Keena Young	6-7/185	Fr.	Averaged 15.0 ppg beside Kendrick Perkins.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
C	Earl Barron	7-0/268	7.9	5.5	0.8	39.2	81.3	10.0
F	John Grice*	6-6/205	11.5	6.3	1.5	40.1	76.9	36.6
C	Chris Massie*	6-8/262	16.7	10.8	1.5	60.2	65.1	0.0

Schedule

D22	Samford	J24	Houston	F24	Southern Miss
N13	TBA*	D27	Missouri	J27	South Florida
TBA	Fordham	D29	Oakland	J31	at TCU
N29	Austin Peay	J6	at Villanova	F4	Louisville
D3	Tennessee-Martin	J10	at Southern Miss	F7	Saint Louis
TBA	at Illinois	J13	at DePaul	F11	at East Carolina
TBA	at Mississippi	J17	Charlotte	F14	at Marquette
D17	Belmont	J20	at Tulane	F21	UAB
					*at New York

5. Charlotte

WHAT WE LIKE: This is as deep a frontcourt as coach Bobby Lutz ever has had. Veterans Calvin Clemmons, Butter Johnson and two junior college recruits back a solid group of starters: forwards Eddie Basden and Curtis Withers and freshman center Martin Iti. The 49ers are excited about guard Brendan Plavich, a transfer from Vanderbilt who led the SEC in 3-point shooting as a sophomore. Plavich impressed the team so much while practicing last season that he was named captain. The addition of Iti might not have as big an impact initially—but he is big. He's also rugged and can be very effective when focused. He might have a little trouble with the physical demands of the college season, but his presence alone makes Charlotte better.

WHAT SCARES US: Point guard Demon Brown is a dazzling player but must develop a run-the-team mentality. Athletically, Brown is what Lutz wants in a point guard—someone who can score on his own. If only Brown would pass the ball. But to get the 49ers' best players on the floor, Brown has to run the offense. Defensively, Charlotte must get better. Iti will provide a presence, but how quickly can he pick up college-level techniques?

X-FACTORS: Lutz expects this squad to play with the character that defined his best teams. In recent seasons, there has been too much sniping about roles and shots. One player who was symptomatic of these problems was Johnson, who had the ability to blossom but wouldn't commit himself. Johnson announced a transfer but later changed his mind; he was allowed to return only after promising he is coming back to contribute to a winner. He is unlikely to start but will play both forward positions and make the team deeper, more athletic and more versatile. —M.D.

49ers data

Coach: Bobby Lutz (93-65, 5 years; 274-156 overall, 14 years; NCAA Tournament 2-3).

Assistant coaches: Rob Moxley (5 years), Benny Moss (3).

2002-03 record: 13-15. C-USA

American: 8-8/T5th.

Last regular-season title: 1997 (White Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Charlotte.

Home court: Dale F. Haltron Arena (9,105).

Website: www.charlotte49ers.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
20	G	Mitchell Baldwin	6-2/180	So.	4.1	1.4	2.2	44.0	70.8	21.4
13	F	Eddie Basden*	6-5/205	Jr.	6.3	6.9	2.6	45.1	72.3	25.0
		G Marcus Bennett	6-3/185	Jr.	JC transfer initially signed with Michigan.					
11	G	Demon Brown*	6-1/195	Sr.	16.8	2.6	1.7	37.6	59.6	39.1
10	G	Andrew Burge	5-9/180	Fr.	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	—	0.0
35	C	Calvin Clemmons	6-8/250	Sr.	6.2	5.4	0.3	44.0	67.7	0.0
		C Martin Iti	7-0/240	Fr.	14.0	ppg	10.0	rpg	3.0	bpg at famed Mt. Zion.
0	F	Butter Johnson	6-8/210	Sr.	6.6	3.5	1.3	37.1	57.9	10.5
41	G	Chris Howard	6-3/185	Sr.	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	—
		F C.J. Pigford	6-7/230	Jr.	18.2 ppg, 7.3 rpg in JC ranks last year.					
5	G	Brendan Plavich	6-2/207	Jr.	Vanderbilt transfer can light it up.					
21	G	Chris Sager	6-4/180	Jr.	4.9	1.4	0.4	33.3	95.2	33.8
		F Dedric Spooner	6-8/235	Jr.	JC transfer could have defensive impact.					
3	F	Curtis Withers*	6-8/230	So.	9.4	6.4	1.3	39.4	63.0	10.0

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G/F	Vincent Grier	6-6/185	5.2	3.4	1.4	52.0	48.9	33.3
G	Curtis Nash*	6-6/190	8.9	2.6	3.3	35.5	70.5	33.1
F	Tory Reed*	6-8/240	3.6	3.7	0.3	41.9	48.9	—

Schedule

D13	Appalachian State	J20	Marquette	F18	South Florida
N24	North Carolina A&T	D23	at Rhode Island	J24	UAB
N26	at Syracuse	D30	Delaware State	J28	Saint Louis
N30	at UNC Asheville	J2	at Southern Illinois	J31	at Cincinnati
D3	at Alabama	J6	at DePaul	F7	at East Carolina
D6	at Old Dominion	J10	East Carolina	F12	Louisville
D11	Davidson	J17	at Memphis	F14	at Saint Louis
					M3 at Houston
					M6 Tulane

6. UAB

WHAT WE LIKE: It didn't take Mike Anderson long to prove he was going to implement the system he helped Nolan Richardson perfect. In his first year as a head coach, the longtime Arkansas assistant had his Blazers leading the nation in steals per game while playing a smothering defense that looked a lot like the Razorbacks teams from the early 1990s, with just a little less talent. UAB returns four of its top five scorers from a year ago, including Morris Finley and his 18.3 points per game. So as long as Anderson doesn't have the cliched-but-dreaded sophomore slump, UAB easily will make the postseason again and possibly will sneak into the NCAA Tournament for the first time in five years.

WHAT SCARES US: With only one experienced player (senior Gabe Kennedy) who is 6-9 or taller, UAB is suspect in the frontcourt and could have problems defending the post. The Blazers will be good as long as they play at a fast pace with plenty of running, diving and jumping. But if a halfcourt game breaks out, UAB will become vulnerable because lack of size is a glaring issue when competing against bruising teams such as Cincinnati. There isn't a center on the roster, and even the backcourt is small with Finley at 5-11. The rest of C-USA surely will find ways to exploit that weakness.

X-FACTORS: Twins Donell and Ronell Taylor come to UAB with impressive resumes. They teamed at Okaloosa-Walton Junior College in Florida last year and were the top two players in their conference. If Donell makes a smooth transition to the Division I game and can be anything close to as productive as he was at the junior college level, the Blazers have landed a solid recruit who can help immediately. —G.P.

Blazers data

Coach: Mike Anderson (21-13, 1 year).

Assistant coaches: Chris Giles (1 year), Scott Edgar (1), Matt Zimmerman (1).

2002-03 record: 21-13. C-USA

National: 8-8/T2nd. Lost to St. John's in

NIT quarterfinal.

Last regular-season title: 1999 (National Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Birmingham, Ala.

Home court: Bartow Arena (8,500).

Website: www.uabsports.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
32	F	Sidney Ball*	6-5/203	Sr.	5.5	5.4	1.0	47.2	68.6	32.9
11	G	Derrick Broom	6-5/200	So.	2.7	0.8	0.6	39.6	75.0	33.3
5	G	DeAndre' Carroll	6-4/175	Fr.	2002-03 redshirt is ready to contribute.					
15	F	Lee Cobb	6-7/215	Sr.	1.2	0.5	0.1	30.4	100.0	21.1
23	G	Demario Eddins*	6-7/190	So.	10.3	4.4	2.5	45.3	62.8	13.3
10	G	Morris Finley*	5-11/165	Sr.	18.3	3.3	3.2	41.5	81.9	41.3
21	G	Tony Johnson	6-4/192	Sr.	1.3	1.6	1.3	34.6	60.9	44.4
31	G	Richard Jones	6-5/206	So.	7.1	1.9	0.9	38.4	52.4	28.2
2	F	Gabe Kennedy*	6-9/240	Sr.	10.1	4.8	0.6	52.5	64.9	100.0
		F Marques Lewis	6-8/250	Jr.	Shot 63.0 percent in JC ranks last year.					
		F Earnest Little	6-9/230	Fr.	Chose UAB over Ole Miss, among others.					
		G Donell Taylor	6-6/180	Jr.	Was first-team NJCAA All-American.					
		G Ronell Taylor	6-5/180	Jr.	Nearly as talented as his twin brother.					
44	F	Brandon Tobias	6-7/215	So.	2.6	2.1	0.2	44.8	55.3	—

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Eric Bush*	5-10/180	9.9	3.2	3.6	45.0	76.9	25.5
G	Jeffrey Collins	6-4/190	8.1	2.9	1.6	41.5	68.0	31.6
F	Cedric Davis	6-8/225	4.7	2.9	0.4	57.9	56.4	—

Schedule

D23	Louisiana Tech	J24	at Charlotte	F25	at Tulane
N24	Georgia Southern	D27	LSU**	J28	Tulane
N29	Richmond	D30	Marshall	J31	Saint Louis
D3	Birmingham-So.	J3	South Alabama	F7	at Louisville
D6	at Mississippi St.	J7	at East Carolina	F11	at Southern Miss
D15	W. Michigan*	J10	Houston	F14	East Carolina
D18	at Va. Common.	J17	at DePaul	F18	Cincinnati
D20	Alabama A&M	J20	South Florida	F21	at Memphis
					M3 at South Florida
					M6 TCU

*at Mobile, Ala.
**at New Orleans

7. DePaul

WHAT WE LIKE: DePaul's frontcourt has the best combination of strength and athleticism in the league. There is no true post player, but the Blue Demons will clobber opponents on the boards. Forward Andre Brown never has developed an offensive game, but he is nasty on the offensive boards and may be ready to become a double-double guy. Forward Delonte Holland should be more aggressive with the ball. He hit 44.8 percent of his 3-pointers last year but didn't take enough. The Blue Devils have a gifted playmaker in freshman guard Sammy Mejia. A bit wild and inconsistent, Mejia has major talent. If he can win a starting position quickly, the offense will be much more dynamic.

WHAT SCARES US: The one thing the Demons could depend upon offensively—throwing the ball to Sam Hoskin—no longer is an option. There are several players who can score but no reliable scorers. Drake Diener was solid at the point last season and rarely made a turnover, but he will need to create more offense. DePaul will be a lesser shooting team unless Diener can make that his first priority. If DePaul can't score outside or inside and doesn't press, points might be tough to come by. Defensively, keeping up with quick point guards, of which there are many in Conference USA, could be a struggle.

X-FACTORS: Probably by necessity, the coaches gambled a bit with recruits. Center Wesley Green is very talented but has been erratic; Mejia can alternate between pushing his game too far and simply drifting. But Green is a 265-pounder with the makings of a serious low-post game, and Mejia has point guard skills and elite-level athleticism at 6-6. If both reach their full potential, DePaul has one of the league's best recruiting classes. —M.D.

Blue Demons data

Coach: Dave Leitao (16-13, 1 year; 38-48 overall, 3 years).

Assistant coaches: Gene Cross (1 year), Tyler Jones (1), Josh Oppenheimer (1).

2002-03 record: 16-13. C-USA American: 8-8/T5th. Lost to North

Carolina in NIT first round.

Last regular-season title: 1992 (tie, Great Midwest).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Chicago.

Home court: Allstate Arena (17,500).

Website: www.depaulbluedemons.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter											
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%	
4	F	Andre Brown*	6-9/245	Sr.	9.4	9.0	0.5	46.3	56.8	—	
44	F	Marlon Brumfield	6-9/220	So.	0.2	0.7	0.0	33.3	0.0	—	
33	G	Drake Diener*	6-5/180	Jr.	7.7	2.9	3.4	44.8	82.1	38.2	
13	G	Chris Exilus	6-2/180	Sr.	1.3	0.2	0.4	30.0	90.0	37.5	
2	F/C	Wesley Green	6-9/265	Fr.	Dad Kenny was a star at Wake Forest.						
45	F	Quemont Greer*	6-7/220	Jr.	9.4	4.3	1.4	46.0	60.8	35.8	
21	F	Marcus Heard	6-7/210	Fr.	One of the top H.S. players in Illinois.						
5	F	Delonte Holland	6-6/210	Sr.	10.9	3.6	1.6	46.7	74.7	44.8	
11	G	Sammy Mejia	6-6/195	Fr.	Two-time first-team all-stater in N.Y.						
3	G	LeVar Seals*	6-4/180	Jr.	3.1	1.8	1.0	33.7	70.0	18.8	
1	G	Tyler Smith	6-2/190	Fr.	Attended a prep school in Philly last year.						
	F/C	Lorenzo Thompson	6-8/240	Fr.	Averaged 19.0 ppg, 12.0 rpg as a H.S. senior.						

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Marlon Brooks	6-1/170	3.3	1.5	1.1	35.4	70.6	6.7
F	Sam Hoskin*	6-9/260	15.6	7.6	1.1	54.1	82.2	31.6
G	Marlon London	6-5/200	3.4	1.8	1.8	30.2	81.6	27.6
G	Joe Tulley	6-2/180	4.7	1.9	1.1	38.6	69.6	37.6

Schedule

N21 Loyola (Ill.)	D27 at Seton Hall	J17 UAB	F14 at Houston
N25 Northwestern	D31 SE Missouri State	J20 at TCU	F21 Saint Louis
N29-30 Spartan Classic*	J3 Chicago State	J24 at Marquette	F25 at Louisville
D7 Bradley	J6 Charlotte	F3 Tulane	F28 Southern Miss
D9 at Ohio	J10 at Cincinnati	F7 Marquette	M4 Cincinnati
D14 Notre Dame	J13 Memphis	F11 at Saint Louis	M6 at South Florida

*at East Lansing, Mich.

8. Saint Louis

WHAT WE LIKE: It appears the system is starting to take. After wrestling with the intricacies of coach Brad Soderberg's screen-and-shoot approach to offense, the Billikens figured it out in February and won eight straight games. There are enough players back who know how to make it work that Saint Louis should be in most games. Point guard Josh Fisher isn't quick, but he's strong, tough and careful with the ball. Forward Chris Sloan isn't quick, but he takes shots he can make and almost never makes a mistake. The real ability, however, resides in Izik Ohanon and Reggie Bryant. A native of Israel, Ohanon was a spot starter in his first college season but needed to play more consistently. Bryant, a transfer from Villanova, is a legitimate 3-point marksman.

WHAT SCARES US: If only Marque Perry could have played until he was 30. He nearly was everything to the Billikens' offense. With his assists and field goals, he participated in 43 percent of their baskets. The only aspect of the attack Perry didn't lead was long-range shooting, but Drew Diener is gone, too. Brandon Morris is a junior college transfer, but it's a long leap from that brand of basketball to the sophistication of the SLU approach. Rebounding also is a big issue for the Billikens.

X-FACTOR: In nine years as a head coach at various levels, Soderberg never has had a losing season. Unlike some systems, his seems to work better as the players doing the work become more familiar with it—regardless of whether opponents do, too. Saint Louis was 5-1 in rematch games last season. It's difficult to play against a team that moves and screens the way this one does because so few teams use such an approach. The better the Billikens execute, the tougher they'll be to handle. —M.D.

Billikens Data

Coach: Brad Soderberg (16-14, 1 year; 32-24 overall, 2 years; NCAA Tournament 0-1).

Assistant coaches: Anthony Beane (1), Angres Thorpe (1), Jason Grunkemeyer (1).

2002-03 record: 16-14. C-USA

American: 9-7/T3rd. Lost to Minnesota in NIT first round.

Last regular-season title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: St. Louis.

Home court: Savvis Center (20,000).

Website: www.slubillikens.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter										
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
21	G	Reggie Bryant	6-2/185	Jr.	Transfer from Villanova can score.					
11	G	Darren Clarke	6-4/180	Fr.	Can play point but is more of a shooter.					
20	G	Anthony Drejai	6-2/190	So.	6.9	2.8	2.2	37.1	54.4	34.6
4	G	Josh Fisher*	6-2/200	Sr.	8.2	2.6	3.7	44.0	72.3	34.1
1	C/F	Tom Frericks	6-9/250	Jr.	JC transfer is a banger.					
22	G	Phillip Hunt	5-11/165	Sr.	0.5	0.4	0.3	20.0	50.0	22.2
44	C	Bryce Husak	7-0/250	Fr.	Two-time all-state player in Iowa.					
23	F	Justin Johnson	6-8/215	Fr.	Redshirted to get bigger, stronger.					
10	G	Brandon Morris	6-0/180	Jr.	JC transfer is a pass-first point guard.					
30	F	Izik Ohanon	6-9/220	Jr.	4.9	3.2	0.6	40.6	55.6	22.2
33	F	Chris Sloan*	6-7/215	Sr.	7.6	3.8	0.8	48.2	69.7	36.4
25	F	Ross Varner	6-7/230	Sr.	1.6	1.3	0.1	30.0	100.0	21.7
52	C/F	Ian Vouyoukas	6-10/250	Fr.	A Greek national team player.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Chris Braun	6-10/235	3.4	2.1	0.2	41.9	75.0	37.5
C	Kenny Brown*	6-9/250	6.7	6.4	0.5	55.2	41.0	—
G	Drew Diener*	6-5/200	6.0	1.6	0.9	38.3	69.6	40.2
G	Marque Perry*	6-1/175	17.1	4.7	3.2	43.2	80.0	26.0

Schedule

N21 Eastern Kentucky	D20 at SW Missouri St.	J17 South Florida	F18 Marquette
N24 Savannah State	D27 Butler	J24 East Carolina	F21 at DePaul
N29 N. Carolina A&T	D31 at Dayton	J28 at Charlotte	F25 at Cincinnati
D2 at West Virginia	J3 Kansas State	J31 at UAB	F28 at Tulane
D6 Arizona	J7 at TCU	F7 at Memphis	M3 Louisville
D13 at Georgia Tech	J10 at Marquette	F11 DePaul	M5 Houston

9. Houston

WHAT WE LIKE: Andre Owens started all 28 games last season after transferring from Indiana. He led the Cougars in steals and assists, and was second in scoring. While taking advantage of having Louis Truscott in the middle to throw the ball to, Owens routinely showed why he was a prep standout in Indiana and gave coach Ray McCallum no reason to worry about who will be running his team for the next two years. With Truscott gone, Owens will have to handle more of the scoring load this season. But Owens has shown the ability to take over games, so that shouldn't be a problem unless fatigue becomes an issue. He'll play a lot.

WHAT SCARES US: The Cougars lost two of their top three scorers from a team that averaged only 58.2 points per game last season. Unless some of the incoming players in McCallum's five-man recruiting class can produce points right away, Houston will have a difficult time scoring at a good enough rate to win in Conference USA. Combine that with the fact the Cougars aren't exactly overwhelming on defense, and there are some legitimate problems McCallum must solve before he will have his breakthrough season as a major-college coach.

X-FACTOR: Marcus Oliver returns to the rotation after tearing his ACL before last season and sitting out the year. Oliver, who was a Conference USA All-Tournament team pick as a junior, should give Owens plenty of help in the backcourt. Oliver averaged 15.0 points in his final five games two seasons ago and used this past summer to get back into shape by playing in the Pan American Games. If Oliver can regain his pre-injury form, McCallum will have a solid backcourt, with two players 6-3 or taller who can handle the ball. —G.P.

Cougars data

Coach: Ray McCallum (35-55, 3 years; 161-131 overall, 9 years; NCAA Tournament 0-2).

Assistant coaches: John Fitzpatrick (3 years), Melvin Haralson (1), Michael Young (1st).

2002-03 record: 8-20. C-USA National:

6-10/5th.

Last regular-season title: 1992 (tie, SWC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Houston.

Home court: Hofheinz Pavilion (8,749).

Website: www.uhcougars.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
42	F	Aaron Anderson	6-6/190	So.	1.1	0.9	0.1	44.4	42.9	—
14	G	Kevin Barber	6-0/175	So.	1.8	0.4	0.2	41.7	50.0	31.3
00	F	Darrius Brannon	6-9/200	Jr.	One of McCallum's first recruits; now eligible.					
25	F	Ramon Dyer	6-7/190	So.	2.5	2.3	0.2	47.6	66.7	38.5
33	C	Anwar Ferguson	7-0/200	Sr.	2.0	2.9	0.2	37.3	68.0	—
1	F	Andrew Francis	6-7/185	Fr.	Adds needed size and versatility.					
30	G	Cedrick Hensley*	6-4/194	So.	6.0	4.0	1.3	42.4	51.3	34.5
4	C	Andy Ikeakor	6-8/260	Jr.	Tennessee transfer; eligible in December.					
45	C	Moshood Martins	6-9/225	So.	Walk-on has good size, but can he play?					
21	C	Elijah Miller	6-10/215	Fr.	Team can use his help in the frontcourt.					
3	G	Marcus Oliver	6-3/183	Sr.	Was playing well at the end of '01-02.					
20	G	Andre Owens*	6-4/199	Jr.	13.9	5.1	3.2	35.6	76.4	32.8
41	G	Parker Pinkalla	6-4/185	Fr.	Top scorer among Houston preps last year.					
24	G	Bryan Shelton*	6-3/180	Fr.	4.8	2.0	1.4	33.3	90.9	29.9
23	G	Lanny Smith	6-3/170	Fr.	Can handle the ball and run a team.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Dwight Jones	6-2/180	3.0	0.8	1.0	26.5	35.7	26.8
C	Jeremee McGuire*	6-10/215	7.0	6.0	1.5	49.7	50.8	18.8
G	Jarrett Sidney	6-1/177	4.2	1.3	1.0	36.1	75.9	23.8

Schedule

N21	East Tennessee St.	D27	Texas A&M	J24	Centenary	F18	at Southern Miss
N26-29	Gr. Alaska Shoot.*	D30	LSU	J28	at Memphis	F21	South Florida
D3	Rice	J3	at La.-Lafayette	J31	at Louisville	F28	at TCU
D6	Lamar	J7	Marquette	F3	at South Florida	M3	Charlotte
D8	at UTEP	J10	at UAB	F7	Southern Miss	M5	at Saint Louis
D17	Bethune-Cookman	J13	TCU	F11	Cincinnati	*at Anchorage, Alaska	
D20	Washington	J17	East Carolina	F14	at Tulane		
					DePaul		

10. Southern Mississippi

WHAT WE LIKE: Charles Gaines was a double-double waiting to happen early last season. The undersized power forward, who is cut from the same mold as former Memphis standout Chris Massie, helped the Golden Eagles to a 9-4 start before the team fizzled in league play. Sophomore Jasper Johnson and senior Greg Johnson also return, giving Southern Miss three solid contributors who are 6-7 or taller. That should be enough for coach James Green to claim one of the elite frontcourts in C-USA, not to mention a chance at postseason play if the backcourt can keep up.

WHAT SCARES US: Though the Golden Eagles return 87 percent of their scoring and 84 percent of their rebounding, it's a little silly to get excited about veterans who produced for a squad that didn't. USM had just two wins—over Memphis and Cincinnati—worth mentioning a year ago and was beaten by the likes of Arkansas State, Houston and East Carolina on the way to a 13-16 record that featured a stretch in which USM lost nine of 10 games. With essentially the same roster, is it fair to assume the Eagles will struggle again? For Green's sake, the results need to improve; another subpar season will make what little interest there is for basketball in Hattiesburg dwindle even more.

X-FACTOR: If Gaines can share his secret to making an easy transition from junior college to the Division I level, Southern Miss might have an impact player in Brannon Hayes. A 6-9 power forward, Hayes signed with Texas Tech out of high school but ultimately left. He averaged 15.0 points and 9.0 rebounds last season at Lee College in Baytown, Texas, and could give the Golden Eagles yet another talented big man capable of getting a double-double here and there. —G.P.

Golden Eagles data

Coach: James Green (110-96, 7 years).

Assistant coaches: Luster Goodwin (4 years), Jeff Norwood (8).

2002-03 record: 13-16. C-USA

National: 5-11/6th.

Last regular-season title: 2001 (tie, National Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: Hattiesburg, Miss.

Home court: Green Coliseum (8,095).

Website: www.southernmiss.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
34	G/F	Clement Carter*	6-5/220	Sr.	4.0	3.6	0.9	33.3	76.0	18.4
40	G	Jason Forte	6-5/205	So.	2.6	1.3	0.3	28.9	53.1	17.9
41	C/F	Charles Gaines*	6-7/220	Sr.	15.1	9.6	0.6	51.4	66.2	—
		F Brannon Hayes	6-9/235	Jr.	Initially signed with Texas Tech.					
1	G	David Haywood	6-4/190	Jr.	6.6	2.4	1.6	39.6	71.8	45.2
32	G/F	Greg Johnson*	6-8/200	Sr.	12.6	4.6	1.1	37.5	57.0	24.4
23	F/G	Jasper Johnson	6-7/230	So.	11.3	4.3	0.5	43.9	85.2	28.3
30	G	James Pattman	6-1/185	Jr.	1.4	0.6	1.9	27.5	65.4	50.0
15	G	Sam Richardson	6-4/200	Fr.	Redshirted with thumb injury in 2002-03.					
		G Jerekus Singleton	6-1/205	So.	Sat out last season as a partial qualifier.					
5	G	Dante Stiggers*	6-2/162	Jr.	5.9	2.2	4.6	41.4	75.6	29.2
		F Emanuel Willis	6-7/220	Fr.	Committed to Southern Miss in fall 2002.					

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Mario Myles*	6-5/190	5.7	3.4	1.5	40.4	68.9	21.3

Schedule

N21	Alcorn State	D30	at Auburn	J13	at Saint Louis	F24	at Memphis
N25	Texas Southern	F11	UAB	J17	Marquette	F28	at DePaul
N29	at Murray State	F21	Charlotte	J24	Cincinnati	M3	Tulane
D5-6	Winthrop Tourn.*	J4	New Orleans	F3	at Houston	M6	East Carolina
D13	at Arkansas State	J7	at Louisville	F7	at TCU	*at Rock Hill, S.C.	
D17	Georgia Southern	J10	Memphis	F13	at South Florida		
				F18	Houston		

11. South Florida

WHAT WE LIKE: In 6-5 wing Jimmy Baxter, first-year coach Robert McCullum has an electric scorer who is streaky but scary good when he's hot. One of only two seniors on the roster, Baxter has the ability to take over games—he torched Memphis for 21 points last January in the Bulls' first win in The Pyramid. This season, he needs to be more consistent. Junior Terrence Leather also returns to give the Bulls another starter back from a squad that finished 15-14 a year ago and, for the most part, was competitive even though it never got on the type of roll anybody would label impressive.

WHAT SCARES US: Though USF has had accomplished players such as Reggie Kohn, B.B. Waldon and Altron Jackson, the Bulls never have been a factor in Conference USA, which is hard to fathom. Under Seth Greenberg—who by going to Virginia Tech jumped on the opportunity to leave before he was told to do so—the Bulls were a mind-boggling 0-27 against teams ranked in the Associated Press top 25. Whether that streak will end just like Greenberg's tenure remains to be seen. But McCullum's biggest challenge at USF undoubtedly will be changing a mind-set that has losing big games etched into it. Until the Bulls believe they can beat quality opponents, they won't.

X-FACTOR: Junior guard Marlyn Bryant will have the opportunity to be a scorer this year, but he has to be more efficient. As a sophomore, he played 27.2 minutes per game and shot 36.7 percent from the field. He made only 10 of his 33 3-point attempts and was just a 64.0 percent free throw shooter. Granted, all of those numbers have to improve. But most agree Bryant has the ability to be a difference-maker. —G.P.

Bulls data

Coach: Robert McCullum (1st year; 44-45 overall, 3 years).

Assistant coaches: Frank Burnell (1st year), Tommy Deffebaugh (1st).

2002-03 record: 15-14. C-USA National: 7-9/4th.

Last regular-season title: 2000 (tie, National Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Tampa.

Home court: Sun Dome (10,411).

Website: www.gousfbulls.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
5	G/F	Sam Barber	6-5/192	So.	3.2	1.4	0.2	50.0	66.7	50.0
22	G/F	Jimmy Baxter*	6-5/200	Sr.	14.6	5.1	2.6	43.7	63.6	34.6
4	C	Brandon Brigman	6-8/249	Jr.	2.6	2.7	0.3	35.3	42.1	0.0
1	G	Marlyn Bryant*	6-3/203	Jr.	7.1	4.9	2.5	36.7	64.0	30.3
		C Konimba Diarra	6-9/230	Fr.	Big man can block as well as rebound.					
		C James Holmes	6-2/180	So.	JC transfer can add offense from the wing.					
21	F	Terrence Leather*	6-9/221	Jr.	7.6	5.3	1.0	41.0	59.3	21.1
20	G	Gerrick Morris	6-10/208	Sr.	2.2	3.0	0.1	45.2	62.1	—
		G Bradley Mosley	6-2/170	Jr.	JC transfer averaged 19.9 points last year.					
13	G	Danny Oglesby	6-1/196	So.	3.8	1.1	0.9	40.0	56.5	32.7
3	G	Brian Swift	5-10/152	Jr.	4.7	1.3	2.4	35.1	96.7	31.4

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Yusuf Baker	6-8/214	4.9	4.8	0.3	58.4	55.6	—
G	Reggie Kohn*	6-1/163	10.3	2.8	6.2	39.7	75.5	40.6
C	Will McDonald*	6-11/249	15.9	8.1	1.1	50.1	64.8	25.0

Schedule

N21 Florida Atlantic	D16 at Michigan State	J27 at Memphis	F18 at Charlotte
N25 at Valparaiso	D20 Fla. International	J31 Houston	F21 at Houston
N29 Wright State	D22 Colorado State	F3 East Carolina	F26 Marquette
D2 at Providence	D29-30 Holiday Classic	F7 at Tulane	F28 at East Carolina
D6 at Nebraska	J10 Louisville	F9 TCU	M3 UAB
D13 Richmond	J17 at Saint Louis	F11 at Cincinnati	M6 DePaul
	J20 at UAB	F13 Southern Miss	

12. East Carolina

WHAT WE LIKE: No team will benefit more from the league's new scheduling policy. Battling Cincinnati, Marquette and Louisville twice a year was wearing down the Pirates as they tried to build a program capable of competing in a major conference. They could use a few more games against TCU and Houston. The Pirates do have some experienced big men in wide-bodied forward Erroyl Bing, skilled forward Gabriel Mikulas and shot-blocking center Moussa Badiane. ECU attempted to improve its backcourt speed, attracting three freshman guard prospects to replace former starting point guard Travis Holcomb-Faye. New York prep product Japhet McNeil is expected to take over the job.

WHAT SCARES US: A lack of talent has prevented the development of a consistent offense. The inside players aren't tall or skilled enough, and the perimeter guys are overmatched by big-time athletes. Were this team still a mid-major, it's hard to imagine it would be shooting under 30 percent from 3-point range. But there's no reason to believe things will change. The same guys who couldn't find the range last year—Derrick Wiley and Belton Rivers—are back. Luke MacKay struggled coming out of junior college last year, but the year of experience could help.

X-FACTOR: The Pirates haven't won a C-USA road game in two seasons in the league. But they did come within a combined seven points at Cincinnati and Louisville in their final two trips last season. The maturation process demands the next step be winning those games. That might be less difficult with the schedule forcing fewer long treks; the Pirates will not have to go to Louisville or DePaul and will visit the four closest C-USA schools: Charlotte, UAB, Southern Miss and South Florida. —M.D.

Pirates data

Coach: Bill Herrion (48-65, 4 years; 215-136 overall, 12 years; NCAA Tournament 1-3).

Assistant coaches: Greg Herenda (3 years), George Stackhouse (2), Dino Presley (1st).

2002-03 record: 12-15. C-USA

American: 3-13/7th.

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1983.

Site: Greenville, N.C.

Home court: Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum (8,000).

Website: www.ecupirates.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
25	C	Moussa Badiane	6-10/210	Jr.	6.9	4.4	0.6	51.6	70.4	—
33	F	Erroyl Bing*	6-7/245	Sr.	8.0	8.7	1.0	42.6	60.8	17.0
34	G	Mike Cook	6-2/200	Fr.	Brings good size to the backcourt.					
55	F	Garth Grindley	6-9/255	Sr.	1.3	1.0	0.0	55.6	50.0	—
13	G	Luke MacKay	6-4/195	Sr.	2.8	1.0	1.0	35.7	60.0	30.8
10	G	Japhet McNeil	6-0/155	Fr.	Three-year starting point guard in H.S.					
51	F	Gabriel Mikulas*	6-8/235	Sr.	11.4	5.8	1.4	51.5	83.3	18.2
32	F	Jonathan Moore	6-6/200	Sr.	3.8	2.9	0.8	30.0	63.0	20.9
1	G	Belton Rivers*	6-1/190	So.	8.0	2.5	2.1	30.3	71.7	30.5
5	G	Frank Robinson	6-2/190	Fr.	Is a good outside shooter.					
23	F	Corey Rouse	6-7/180	So.	3.0	3.0	0.2	52.6	36.0	40.0
31	G	Derrick Wiley*	6-4/190	Sr.	14.0	5.2	1.5	43.8	68.6	31.3

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Travis Holcomb-Faye*	6-1/215	10.1	3.4	4.3	36.4	70.6	10.1

Schedule

N22 Campbell	D23 Hampton	J24 at Saint Louis	F18 Tulane
N29 Coastal Carolina	D27 Virginia Tech	J28 at Cincinnati	F21 TCU
D2 at George Mason	D30 Radford	J31 DePaul	F28 South Florida
D6 at Mississippi	J7 UAB	F3 at South Florida	M3 at Marquette
D10 North Carolina A&T	J10 at Charlotte	F7 Charlotte	M6 at Southern Miss
D19 Gardner-Webb	J15 Louisville	F11 Memphis	
	J17 at Houston	F14 at UAB	

13. Tulane

WHAT WE LIKE: Ivan Pjavecic is exactly what we have come to expect from European players. He's tall (6-11) and lean (232) and can step away from the basket and shoot jumpers. And if Tulane is going to have any kind of success this season, he must take more shots and make more shots than ever before. Pjavecic shot 42.5 percent from 3-point range a year ago, and of the returning players only Wayne Tinsley averaged more minutes. Now, Pjavecic will be asked to consistently start and contribute, meaning the team will expect more efforts like his 15-point, 6-rebound performance in a win over Houston last February.

WHAT SCARES US: No team in Conference USA has to replace more talent than Tulane. The Green Wave's top four scorers are gone—including its best inside player (Brandon Brown) and outside player (Waitari Marsh)—and none of the incoming recruits is considered a blue-chip prospect. With nobody on the roster having averaged more than 6.9 points per game last season, it's hard to label this anything other than a rebuilding season. Truth be told, coach Shawn Finney missed on his chance at a breakthrough season last year, when he had five seniors. Now, anything more than a middle-of-the-pack finish in Conference USA seems like wishful thinking.

X-FACTOR: Quincy Davis didn't get on the court much early in his freshman season but came on late and became one of Tulane's better defenders. Davis will be expected to fill the void left by Brown, which means he has to block shots, rebound and eat up minutes in the paint. The improvement of Davis is vital to the success of Tulane. Without a strong post presence, the team will be dominated by opponents with solid big men. —G.P.

Green Wave data

Coach: Shawn Finney (39-51, 3 years).

Assistant coaches: Wade O'Connor (3 years), Jeff Reynolds (3), Steve Snell (2).

2002-03 record: 16-15. C-USA

National: 8-8/T2nd.

Last regular-season title: 2000 (tie, National Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: New Orleans.

Home court: Fogelman Arena (3,600).

Website: www.tulanegreenwave.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
5	G	Troy Aaron	6-1/175	Fr.	Will serve as the backup point guard.					
30	G	Ben Benfield	6-3/181	Jr.	3.2	0.9	0.4	42.9	50.0	41.9
54	C	George Brown	6-10/246	Jr.	1.5	1.4	0.0	42.3	50.0	—
4	G	Vincent Camper	6-4/190	Fr.	Combo guard is strong and athletic.					
22	F	Kory Castine	6-8/235	Fr.	Will provide depth in the middle.					
50	F/C	Quincy Davis	6-7/217	So.	2.4	2.5	0.2	55.6	63.6	—
20	F	Dan Fitzgerald	6-8/200	Fr.	A sharpshooter with size.					
11	G	Marcus Kinzer	5-10/186	Jr.	4.0	1.4	2.0	40.4	78.3	30.0
3	G	Chris Moore	6-5/200	Fr.	Good shooter may provide quick offense.					
44	C	Ivan Pjavecic*	6-11/232	Sr.	5.9	3.1	0.8	47.1	45.0	42.5
40	F	Vytautas Tatarunas	6-5/237	So.	3.2	1.3	0.3	40.0	66.7	50.0
45	G/F	Wayne Tinsley*	6-4/218	Sr.	6.9	3.8	2.7	53.9	62.5	12.5

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Brandon Brown*	6-8/230	13.5	7.4	2.5	50.0	60.6	33.3
G	Waitari Marsh*	6-3/195	14.6	4.2	3.3	44.9	77.8	34.8
F	Nick Sinville	6-6/230	8.4	4.7	0.7	55.5	49.2	—
G	Brandon Spann*	6-1/185	11.1	2.4	2.9	41.4	80.8	38.6

Schedule

N25	Southern	D23	at LSU	J28	at UAB	F25	UAB
N29	Ark.-Pine Bluff*	D27	Mississippi State	J31	Southern Miss	F28	Saint Louis
N30	Loyola*	D31	Nicholls State	F3	at DePaul	M3	at Southern Miss
D3	New Orleans	J7	Cincinnati	F7	South Florida	M6	at Charlotte
D6	Rice	J10	at TCU	F11	Houston	*at New Orleans	
D9	Northwestern St.	J17	at Louisville	F14	TCU		
D20	SE Louisiana	J20	Memphis	F18	at East Carolina		
		J24	Savannah State	F21	at Marquette		

14. TCU

WHAT WE LIKE: Corey Santee is an example of a guy who is not quite good enough to go to his home-state school, Michigan State, but was a great find for the Horned Frogs. A 6-2 junior from Flint, Santee has excelled in coach Neil Dougherty's fast-paced style of play while sharing the scoring load with Junior Blount and backcourt mate Bingo Merriex. Now, Blount and Merriex—two TCU standouts—are gone, leaving a bigger load on Santee's shoulders. He'll have help from senior Nucleus Smith and sophomore Chudi Chinweze. But there is no debating this is Santee's team and that he'll put up big numbers whether TCU wins or loses.

WHAT SCARES US: TCU was picked to finish just behind Memphis last season in the defunct National Division. Instead, the Horned Frogs won just three league games and found themselves at the bottom of what was considered to be the weaker of Conference USA's two divisions. In his first season, Dougherty inherited a solid group of players from former coach Billy Tubbs. Even so, TCU looked out of sync. Now, with Blount and Merriex out of the rotation, even the most optimistic Horned Frogs supporter would have a hard time believing things will get much better this season, especially considering TCU has little experience in the paint.

X-FACTOR: Aaron Curtis is a talented wing who was considered to be one of the elite junior college players in the country last season. If Dougherty has his way, Curtis—who, along with Charlotte recruit C.J. Pigford, was a star at Lon Morris Junior College in Jacksonville, Texas—will have an immediate impact and pick up some of the scoring load Blount and Merriex took on last season. That's a lot to ask of a first-year player. —G.P.

Horned Frogs data

Coach: Neil Dougherty (9-19, 1 year).

Assistant coaches: Rick Callahan

(1 year), Kevin Lewis (1), Jai Steadman (1).

2002-03 record: 9-19. C-USA National: 3-13/7th.

Last regular-season title: 1998 (WAC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Fort Worth, Texas.

Home court: Daniel Meyer Coliseum (7,200).

Website: www.gofrogs.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
23	F	Blake Adams	6-5/190	Fr.	Houston area recruit has promise.					
22	F	Chudi Chinweze	6-7/215	So.	8.4	4.8	0.8	56.5	56.8	—
21	F	Aaron Curtis	6-5/210	Jr.	JC transfer could help right away.					
13	G	Neil Dougherty	6-0/185	Fr.	Coach didn't have to go far to recruit him.					
0	G	Ronald Hobbs	6-6/200	Sr.	3.6	1.9	0.3	36.7	62.2	20.0
12	C	Femi Ibikunle	6-9/250	Fr.	Native of Africa has good size.					
20	G	David Markley	5-10/170	So.	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0
45	F	Art Pierce	6-9/215	Fr.	Another in-state (Tyler) recruit.					
3	G	Corey Santee*	6-2/185	Jr.	16.3	2.4	5.0	43.5	70.8	37.0
10	G	Marcus Shropshire	6-0/185	Jr.	Transfer from Texas Tech.					
5	F	Marcus Sloan	6-8/205	Jr.	1.9	2.2	0.4	43.6	51.4	—
1	G	Nucleus Smith	6-2/193	Sr.	5.8	1.9	2.1	42.3	82.1	15.2
33	F	Corey Valsin*	6-5/225	Jr.	3.5	3.8	1.2	35.8	58.1	18.5

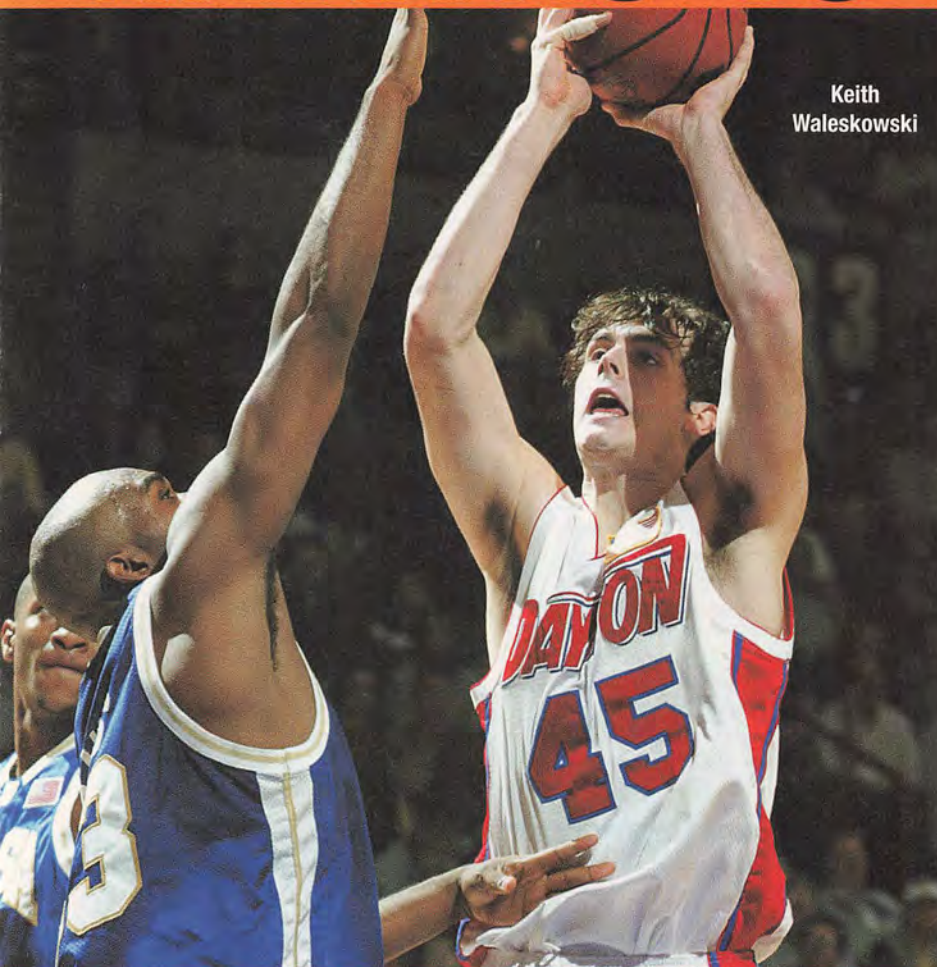
Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Junior Blount*	6-0/160	17.7	2.2	2.7	41.1	88.4	35.8
F	Jamal Brown*	6-7/228	9.0	8.6	0.3	44.7	66.1	0.0
G	James Davis	6-5/195	2.6	2.9	0.7	33.3	75.0	23.1
F	Bingo Merriex*	6-9/225	12.6	7.5	1.4	42.2	52.4	30.8

Schedule

N22	Texas-Arlington	D10	at Texas Tech	J17	at Cincinnati	F21	at East Carolina
N25	SMU	D13	North Texas	J20	DePaul	F25	Charlotte
N29	Tulsa	D22	Arkansas State	J31	Memphis	F28	Houston
D1	Kansas	D29	Grambling	F3	at Marquette	M3	at Memphis
D3	Murray State	J3	Vanderbilt	F7	Southern Miss	M6	at UAB
D6	at Washington St.	J7	Saint Louis	F9	at South Florida		
D8	Stephen F. Austin	J10	Tulane	F14	at Tulane		
		J13	at Houston	F18	Louisville		

ATLANTIC 10



Keith
Waleskowski

2002-03 team statistics

Offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
St. Bonaventure	27	42.5	75.9	37.2	34.5	15.4	8.1	2.3	12.4	79.5
Xavier	32	44.8	74.6	36.1	39.3	16.3	5.4	3.0	12.7	77.6
Dayton	30	45.1	71.4	35.9	36.4	15.1	5.3	2.9	13.2	72.7
George Washington	29	43.8	67.5	34.0	36.6	13.3	6.4	3.2	16.3	71.4
Saint Joseph's	30	44.3	68.6	36.3	35.3	13.9	7.2	5.5	12.9	70.4
Rhode Island	31	39.6	66.4	31.0	38.0	13.2	8.1	2.4	13.5	69.8
La Salle	29	39.7	73.1	33.2	35.7	11.4	6.3	2.1	14.3	68.3
Duquesne	30	44.5	68.9	36.6	33.0	12.6	6.7	3.6	18.9	66.7
Temple	34	40.2	66.8	32.3	34.9	10.3	9.1	3.8	9.9	66.6
Richmond	29	41.2	70.2	33.3	33.4	13.0	6.7	3.9	12.1	65.1
Fordham	28	41.2	61.8	33.4	33.8	12.1	7.4	3.3	17.5	64.6
Massachusetts	29	43.1	63.8	30.1	32.2	14.1	6.2	3.7	15.7	61.7

Defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Saint Joseph's	30	37.2	65.3	33.2	35.5	11.4	6.1	2.7	15.2	59.5
Richmond	29	40.5	70.4	33.6	35.8	11.0	4.8	2.3	15.2	62.4
Temple	34	43.2	67.7	38.1	36.1	16.9	4.0	2.6	14.8	66.1
Xavier	32	41.0	66.5	32.0	33.8	12.5	6.4	3.0	13.7	66.1
Massachusetts	29	41.3	69.0	32.1	35.6	12.3	8.3	2.9	13.3	66.5
Dayton	30	42.8	71.7	37.3	31.5	12.0	5.8	2.8	11.9	66.9
Rhode Island	31	43.1	66.4	31.7	37.3	13.4	6.6	4.4	16.2	69.6
La Salle	29	42.3	69.2	32.3	37.4	14.9	6.6	4.3	14.5	71.4
George Washington	29	44.6	66.9	35.1	33.6	14.8	7.2	3.9	14.9	71.9
Duquesne	30	44.4	69.6	38.4	34.3	14.2	8.1	3.6	15.4	73.4
Fordham	28	44.4	71.6	37.7	39.5	15.4	9.1	3.4	14.2	78.1
St. Bonaventure	27	46.8	71.8	37.8	39.5	15.9	5.0	4.1	17.1	78.1

Saint Joseph's, Xavier and the A-10 all are fine—for now

The Atlantic 10 is just fine and dandy, thank you. No defections to the Vatican Basketball Association. No need to dip into lesser conferences to bolster membership. The conference weathered last year's St. Bonaventure scandal effectively and maturely by smacking the Bonnies around a little but not whacking them. There are promising new coaches. The programs have plenty of incoming talent. There are even indications Temple might be on its way back to national prominence.

Everything is just fine—for now. By this time next year (or even sooner), the Big East is going to start making moves to fortify its ranks. Anything could happen, including the pillaging of rival confederations. (Let's see commissioner Mike Tranghese spin that one, after his melodramatic, the-end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it soliloquy at the beginning of the ACC raid.) Xavier and Dayton profess their commitment to the A-10, but who knows what will happen if Georgetown, St. John's and the other Big East teams that don't have Division I-A football programs want a sitdown.

Commissioner Linda Bruno and conference athletic directors no doubt will devote considerable energy to keeping membership intact.

Meanwhile, there should be some pretty good basketball played in the Atlantic 10 this season. The return of point guard Jameer Nelson has Saint Joseph's on everybody's preseason radar and has made the Hawks an attractive target for TV cameras. With Nelson, who received All-American honorable mention last season, leading the way, Saint Joe's has big dreams—and rightfully so.

Temple might not look so sharp early, thanks to a blend of youth and coach John Chaney's insistence on playing an

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
East Division				
Saint Joseph's	12	4	23	7
Temple	10	6	18	16
Rhode Island	10	6	19	12
Massachusetts	6	10	11	18
Fordham	3	13	2	26
St. Bonaventure	1	15	13	14
West Division				
Xavier	15	1	26	6
Dayton	14	2	24	6
Richmond	10	6	15	14
La Salle	6	10	12	17
George Washington	5	11	12	17
Duquesne	4	12	9	21

Predictions

East Division

1. Saint Joseph's*
2. Temple*
3. Rhode Island
4. Massachusetts
5. Fordham
6. St. Bonaventure

West Division

1. Xavier*
2. Dayton*
3. La Salle
4. Richmond
5. George Washington
6. Duquesne

*NCAA Tournament pick

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jameer Nelson, Saint Joseph's	6-0	190	Sr.
G	M. Green, St. Bonaventure	5-7	160	Sr.
G	Romain Sato, Xavier	6-5	205	Sr.
C	Keith Butler, Temple	7-0	250	So.
F	Anthony Myles, Xavier	6-9	245	Sr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	David Hawkins, Temple	6-4	215	Sr.
G	Delonte West, Saint Joseph's	6-4	180	Jr.
G	Gary Neal, La Salle	6-4	175	So.
F	Steven Smith, La Salle	6-8	225	So.
F	Keith Waleskowski, Dayton	6-8	231	Sr.

Player spotlight

Player of the year

Jameer Nelson

Nelson made a highly-favorable impression at the NBA predraft camp in Chicago, and if there hadn't been so much previous buzz about other point guards, he might have ended up

as a first-round draft pick. He has that kind of talent. No one can take the ball from him or keep him in check off the dribble. His runner in the lane is money, and he knows how to make the right pass. If his long-range shooting off the dribble improves, he'll be ridiculous.

Newcomer of the year

Justin Cage, F, Xavier

There are certain terms in the basketball world which carry plenty of heft. One is Indiana's "Mr. Basketball." That's Cage, a 6-6 multitalented wing forward who will fit perfectly into Xavier's system of controlled fast-breaking and halfcourt patterns. He played on a 29-0 team that won the state title last year and was so good Cage rarely played more than half the game. It's a good bet he won't be spending much time on the bench at Xavier.

Most underrated

Tony Dobbins, G, Richmond

When Dobbins transferred to Richmond from Virginia Tech, many expected him to be an immediate scoring sensation. Because that didn't happen, some wondered what went wrong. Nothing. Dobbins might be lauded more for his defense (rightfully so) than anything else, but he is an accomplished rebounder, a good ballhandler and strong off the dribble. Could his shooting accuracy improve? Absolutely. But that doesn't diminish his significant contributions.

NBA schedule every year even if his team isn't ready for such competition. (Last season the Owls lost six of their first seven games with a brutal schedule that included Wake Forest, Illinois and Wisconsin). But by season's end, no one will want to mess with the Owls.

In the West Division, Xavier is auditioning replacements for departed All-American, conference player of the year and first-round NBA draft pick David West. The rest of the cast is just fine, and plenty of new talent has arrived. Dayton has a new coach—former Michigan State assistant Brian Gregory—but it has four returning starters and is pretty used to winning 20 games or so a year.

So, focus on the basketball this season, but devote some attention to the off-court drama. We're not saying the Atlantic 10 is going to look different in a year, but there still are some dominoes left to knock down, and no one can be sure where they're going to fall.

ASCENDING: La Salle. If the Explorers hadn't been battered by injuries last season, they wouldn't have been eligible for this category, because they probably would have won close to 18 games. But because coach Billy Hahn's team was in constant flux, La Salle didn't get to realize its considerable upside. Sophomore forward Steven Smith is going to be a star. He averaged 14.5 points and 8.1 rebounds as a freshman starter last season. The backcourt is deep.

And the Explorers have some size for the first time in a while.

DESCENDING: St. Bonaventure. How low can the Bonnies go? They won't be forfeiting games or withstanding wisecracks about whether beauty school diplomas guarantee admission to the school, as welding certificates did last year. But the program's ranks are depleted, and new coach Anthony Solomon must wait to see what sanctions the NCAA will pile on. It's not even winter yet, but things look pretty bleak in Olean, N.Y.

PLAYERS ON THE RISE:

1. Steven Smith, F, La Salle. First, he had to sit out as a partial qualifier. Then, he missed considerable time last year because of an injury. But Smith is a threat at both ends who can score big and sweep clean the backboards.

2. Dedrick Finn, G, Xavier. He played a supporting role last season but dazzled at times with his shooting and distributing abilities. He's poised for even more playing time and success this season.

3. Ramod Marshall, G, Dayton. A strong complementary player the past two years, Marshall must be the Flyers' primary perimeter weapon every night this season. He can do it. **TSN**

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.

RANKING THE 2003 RECRUITING CLASSES By Mike Sullivan, Rivals.com

- 1. Temple.** Forward Dion Dacons is the headliner of a group that improves the team's talent overall.
- 2. Xavier.** A five-man crop gives the Musketeers needed depth, and forward Justin Cage is a future star.
- 3. Saint Joseph's.** The Hawks needed size and got it. Robert Ferguson could have an immediate impact.
- 4. George Washington.** A deep class of recruits and transfers continues the Colonials' rise.
- 5. Massachusetts.** The Minutemen might actually score with guards Art Bowers and Maurice Maxwell.
- 6. La Salle.** If 6-10 center Mbainai Narmbaye makes good on his potential, the Explorers will be dangerous.
- 7. Duquesne.** The Dukes fortified their backcourt with transfers and added some beef up front.
- 8. Dayton.** Only two players in this crop, but guard Chris Spears and center James Cripe should help now.
- 9. Richmond.** Daon Merritt could step in right away at the point. Guard Andres Sandoval has deep range.
- 10. Rhode Island.** Connecticut transfer Scott Hazelton highlights a class that is role-player heavy.
- 11. Fordham.** JC point man Derrick Breland will start, and guard/forward Dominic Osei will play a lot.
- 12. St. Bonaventure.** A late start and lingering bad vibes produced a small class.

Best bets

1. At some point this season, talk will start about whether Xavier and Dayton will join the non-football schools from the Big East in a new basketball confederation. You can't blame the Musketeers and Flyers when they hear messages like the one from an A-10 member that is wary of becoming too strong in basketball, lest it ruin its academic reputation.

2. Time will prove that Fordham's Dereck Whittenburg, Dayton's Brian Gregory and St. Bonaventure's Anthony Solomon are good

coaching hires, though only Gregory will see much success quickly. Whittenburg and Solomon much sift through too much junk before they get things turned around.

3. Even though St. Bonaventure guard Marques Green's statistics might drop some this year, in Solomon's somewhat more structured system, he will become a better player, if only because of the discipline he must exercise at the defensive end. Green will still be able to pile up some steals, but his man-to-man defense will improve. With the ball, Green will fully develop the skills that might attract NBA scouts.

1. Saint Joseph's

WHAT WE LIKE: Even though Jameer Nelson went to Chicago and showcased his substantial skills for NBA gumshoes, he continued to take summer school courses. Nice move. Nelson impressed the inquiring eyes at the NBA predraft camp but couldn't find his way to first-round certainty in a crowded field of point guards. He's back on Hawk Hill for what should be a triumphant (all-time assist leader, all-time leading scorer, retired number, All-American honors, etc.) senior season. Nelson is a press-proof point who can get anywhere he wants

on the court and boasts an unblockable runner in the lane. If he improves his long-range shooting off the dribble, he'll be a lottery pick in 2004. Nelson's running mate, Delonte West, suffered through a stress fracture of his right fibula last season and some midseason disciplinary trouble, but he returns for his junior year ready to continue his ascent among the nation's top wing guards. Few can hang with West in the flight department, and his jump-shooting continues to improve. What West needs now are a season of good health and game-to-game consistency. Saint Joseph's has great backcourt depth, too. Senior Tyrone Barley is a lock-down defender and capable ballhandler, sophomore Dwayne Lee has excellent speed and wing Pat Carroll is one of the nation's best pure shooters. Up front, freshman Robert Ferguson is being billed as "the kind of forward we've never had" by some Hawks observers. That means he can jump, shoot and defend. Should he do all three on a regular basis, the Hawks are in good shape. Don't expect such versatility from sophomore Dwayne Jones, but he is a good shot blocker and capable rebounder. Junior John Bryant is a willing interior banger, sophomore Dave Mallon has myriad skills and

swingman Chet Stachitas would eat razor wire to get a loose ball.

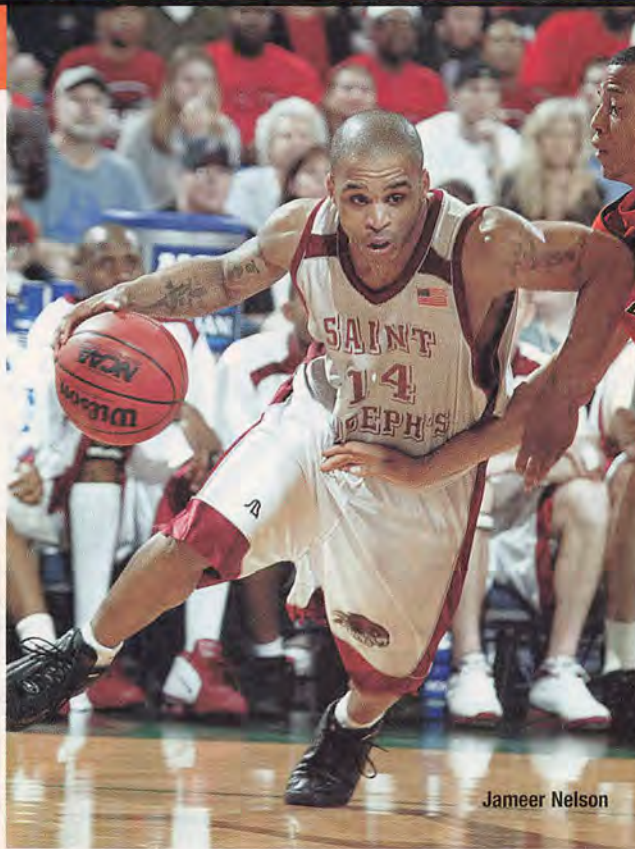
WHAT SCARES US: The Hawks have great depth along the perimeter, but their inside players have not been productive. That might change with Ferguson, who averaged 25.0 ppg and 16.0 rpg last year and was Florida's 5A Player of the Year. That's a lot of pressure to put on a freshman. Mallon had trouble translating his physical tools into output last season. There has been talk he might be redshirted this year. Then again, he might start. That's how much things could fluctuate up front. Jones is a great eraser who had moments last season when he looked like Patrick Ewing against North Carolina in the 1982 NCAA title game. Other times—particularly at the offensive end—he looked like Ewing during his final NBA season: lost and confused. Last season, Jones had Alexandre Sazonov to spell him. Sazonov is gone, and Estonian Artur Surov will be asked to give his five fouls willingly—perhaps all on the same possession. Bryant is a willing defender and rebounder who must give up the ball as soon as he touches it, lest he gets fouled. Newcomer Arvydas Lidzius has a good shot but might not find room this season and could redshirt. Though the future for the frontcourt could be inconsistent, it must be a strong counterpart to the deep and talented Hawks backcourt if Saint Joseph's is to make the loud national statement it has craved.

X-FACTORS: The last time Saint Joseph's was this highly regarded heading into the season (2001-02), it crashed heavily to the ground under expectations because the seniors were ill-prepared, and largely unwilling, to handle the substantial scrutiny. This bunch should be different, mostly because of Nelson, whose return is predicated not only on improving his draft stock but also on making some progress in the NCAA Tournament. It has been seven years since the Hawks made it past the second round. Another unknown is how hard Carroll has worked to become more than a stand-alone shooter. He was deadly when left wide open last season but couldn't do anything off the dribble. That must change for the Hawks to enjoy offensive diversity and national success.

Schedule

N22	Fairfield
N25	at Boston University
N29	at Old Dominion
D3	San Francisco
D6	Pennsylvania
D9	Boston College
D13	Drexel
D20	California*
D27	Pacific
D30	at Delaware
J3	George Washington
J6	at Richmond
J10	at Duquesne
J13	Fordham
J17	at Xavier
J21	Massachusetts
J24	at St. Bonaventure
J31	at Temple
F2	at Villanova
F7	La Salle
F11	Dayton
F14	Rhode Island
F18	at Fordham
F21	Temple
F25	at Massachusetts
F28	at Rhode Island
M3	St. Bonaventure

*at Oakland



Jameer Nelson

ROBERT SEALE/TSN

An Atlantic 10 coach says: Jameer Nelson is constantly in attack mode. He can beat you from 3-point range, get into the lane, get you in foul trouble, and he runs the team. What made them great was the emergence of Delonte West. Before he had the stress fracture, he was the league's best two-guard. They have the perfect complement in Pat Carroll. You have to be very careful about leaving him. You can't let their guards overwhelm yours. You can't let their defensive pressure get them in the break. West seems kind of a high-maintenance guy. I don't know how that will affect their season.

Hawks data

Coach: Phil Martelli (149-97, 8 years; NCAA Tournament 3-3).

Assistant coaches: Monte Ross (7 years), Mark Bass (4), Matt Brady (10).

2002-03 record: 23-7. Atlantic 10 East: 12-4/1st. Lost to Auburn in NCAA East first round.

Last regular-season title: 2003 (A-10 East).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Philadelphia.

Home court: Alumni Memorial Field House (3,200).

Website: www.sjuhawks.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
12	G	Tyrone Barley	6-1/185	Sr.	6.0	2.2	2.0	39.4	81.5	34.3
34	F	John Bryant	6-7/220	Jr.	3.0	3.4	0.6	52.8	51.6	—
33	G/F	Pat Carroll*	6-5/190	Jr.	11.5	3.5	1.2	46.4	76.0	45.0
52	F	Robert Ferguson	6-8/210	Fr.	All-everything as a Florida H.S. senior.					
43	G	Robert Hartshorn	6-3/195	Sr.	0.4	0.1	0.0	28.6	—	—
2	F	Brian Jesiolowski	6-7/195	Sr.	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	—	—
21	C	Dwayne Jones	6-11/225	So.	4.2	6.3	0.3	52.6	35.1	—
5	G	Dwayne Lee	6-0/180	So.	1.3	0.6	0.6	28.6	75.0	25.0
44	F	Arvydas Lidzius	6-9/215	Fr.	Sixth man last year on D.C. area power.					
40	F	Dave Mallon*	6-10/230	So.	1.6	1.9	0.3	31.6	50.0	21.4
14	G	Jameer Nelson*	6-0/190	Sr.	19.7	5.1	4.7	43.7	77.2	33.9
13	G/F	Chet Stachitas	6-5/190	So.	3.0	1.2	0.9	32.6	79.3	26.3
11	C	Artur Surov	7-0/285	Fr.	Estonia native grew up in Finland.					
15	G	Delonte West*	6-4/180	Jr.	17.3	4.3	3.2	47.4	81.4	37.4

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
C	Alexandre Sazonov*	7-1/255	3.4	2.2	0.4	51.7	63.2	—

2. Temple

WHAT WE LIKE: Dare we say it? Temple could be one of the most athletic teams in the A-10, capable of playing uptempo and scoring a lot of points—at times. John Chaney has filled his roster with a collection of newcomers that flies in the face of the traditional defend-to-the-death Owls. Though Chaney might not be ready to go Loyola Marymount, he can't ignore his team's talent or desire to score. Not that the holdovers are hamburger. Senior guard David Hawkins is the stabilizer, but his shooting percentage must go up and his turnovers down. Sophomore Maurice Collins showed an ability to run the team last season, but he'll be pushed by highly-regarded freshman Mario Taybron. If he qualifies, look out for freshman Jesus Verdejo. Up front, center Keith Butler has the potential to be an imposing defensive presence.

WHAT SCARES US: Even with Butler, rebounding is a concern. The Owls were beaten on the boards last season and lost Alex Wesby, their top rebounder. Expect Butler to do better than last season's 5.4 rpg, but it's up to Micheal Blackshear, Dion Dacons and junior Nehemiah Ingram, who has been ineligible for two seasons, to make serious commitments to pound the glass. Temple also must do a better job defending the 3-pointer. Teams made 38.1 percent of their 3s against the Owls last season.

X-FACTOR: Every good Temple team has a player who does the grunt work. That means rebounding, playing exceptional defense, handling the ball well and setting screens. Wesby handled the job for three years, but now the focus is Blackshear, who averaged 9.9 ppg and 14.0 rpg as a high school senior two years ago under current Temple assistant Bill Ellerbee. Don't expect many points from Blackshear, but expect to see plenty of him on the court.

Owls data

Coach: John Chaney (468-210, 21 years; 693-269 overall, 31 years; NCAA Tournament 23-17).
Assistant coaches: Dan Leibovitz (8 years), Bill Ellerbee (2).
2002-03 record: 18-16. Atlantic 10 East: 10-6/T2nd. Lost to Minnesota in

NIT quarterfinal.

Last regular-season title: 2001.

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Philadelphia.

Home court: Liacouras Center (10,206).

Website: www.owlsports.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
2	G	Wilbur Allen	6-4/200	Jr.	0.3	0.2	0.2	50.0	50.0	0.0
21	F	Micheal Blackshear	6-6/215	So.	Starred at Philly prep power Simon Gratz.					
44	C	Keith Butler*	7-0/250	So.	3.9	5.4	0.2	46.5	49.1	0.0
1	G	Tyreek Byard	6-5/175	Fr.	Averaged 16.5 ppg, 9.0 rpg as a H.S. senior.					
25	G	Maurice Collins*	6-5/205	So.	12.0	2.9	2.6	37.0	67.5	29.8
4	F	Dion Dacons	6-6/210	Fr.	Led Oak Hill to a No. 4 national ranking.					
34	G	David Hawkins*	6-4/155	Sr.	16.9	4.3	2.8	40.6	78.7	30.5
33	F	Nehemiah Ingram	6-8/250	Jr.	Academic redshirt last season.					
24	F	Antywan Robinson*	6-8/210	So.	5.4	5.4	0.7	40.1	64.3	28.0
3	G	Dustin Salisbery	6-5/205	Fr.	Class 4A all-state player in Pennsylvania.					
22	G	Mario Taybron	6-3/185	Fr.	Finally, a guy to fill Lynn Greer's shoes.					
23	G	Jesus Verdejo	6-5/200	Fr.	Could become starting shooting guard.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Nile Murry	6-4/200	2.9	1.3	0.5	32.3	77.8	24.5
G	Brian Polk	6-4/210	12.9	4.5	1.0	41.9	65.3	38.0
F	Alex Wesby*	6-6/210	12.5	5.8	2.1	42.1	57.7	34.9

Schedule

N21 Villanova	D20 at Miami (Fla.)	J24 at Massachusetts	F21 at Saint Joseph's
N29 Illinois	D30 Pennsylvania	J28 St. Bonaventure	F25 at La Salle
D3 at Rutgers	J3 at Indiana	J31 Saint Joseph's	F29 Fordham
D6 at Drexel	J7 at G. Washington	F4 at Fordham	M3 Massachusetts
D9 Arizona State*	J10 at Dayton	F7 at St. Bonaventure	M6 Xavier
D13 Penn State	J14 Rhode Island	F11 at Rhode Island	*at Phoenix
D15 South Carolina	J17 Richmond	F14 Georgetown	
	J21 Pennsylvania	F18 Duquesne	

3. Rhode Island

WHAT WE LIKE: Any team coached by Jim Baron gets a thumbs-up here. The Rams were expected to emit an eye-burning stench last season but instead shocked many people by finishing tied for second in the East and reaching the NIT's second round. With Brian Woodward back for his fourth year of eligibility—he graduated in the spring after being a partial qualifier—along with fellow holdovers Dawan Robinson at the point, wing Dustin Hellenga and forward Jamaal Wise, the Rams should be good for at least an encore. Add Connecticut transfer Scott Hazelton, who is eligible at midseason, and sophomore guard Tyrese Sullivan, and the Rams will be even tougher, particularly at home.

WHAT SCARES US: Robinson is a willing point man, but he often wants his own shot. That's not necessarily a good blend with Woodward, who should top his 2002-03 average (14.1 ppg). Sullivan is more of a pure point, but his year off left some rust. There isn't much in the way of frontcourt scoring, either. None of the holdovers was particularly strong in that area last season, and though newcomer J.R. Moore goes 6-9, 240, he is best at rebounding. Some of the league's better teams figured out last season that beating Rhode Island was a function of matching the Rams' defensive tenacity and then collecting the missed shots.

X-FACTOR: Many figured Hazelton would be the next in the long line of UConn stars after he committed to coach Jim Calhoun. It never happened. Hazelton impressed coaches with his athletic ability, but he never found his niche in the Huskies' system. Transferring to URI could be the best thing for him and the Rams. A small step down in competition will help his confidence, and Rhode Island certainly can use a frontcourt scoring force.

Rams data

Coach: Jim Baron (27-32, 2 years; 233-234 overall, 16 years; NCAA Tournament 0-3).
Assistant coaches: Dan Theiss (2 years), Desmond Oliver (2), Ty Weeks (2).
2002-03 record: 19-12. Atlantic 10

East: 10-6/T2nd. Lost to Temple in NIT second round.

Last regular-season title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Kingston, R.I.

Home court: Thomas F. Ryan Center (7,571).

Website: www.gorhody.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
	G	Randy Brooks	6-4/180	Jr.	Transfer who can lead, is tough inside.					
44	C	Jon Clark*	6-9/220	So.	3.8	3.3	0.5	50.5	39.5	0.0
	F	Scott Hazelton	6-8/210	Jr.	Transfer didn't pan out at Connecticut.					
24	G	Dustin Hellenga*	6-4/210	Jr.	13.0	3.9	2.1	38.0	64.6	31.7
54	C	Chris Holm	6-10/258	So.	1.5	1.3	0.2	30.8	61.5	0.0
1	F	Terrence Mack	6-6/223	So.	3.0	2.7	0.4	40.7	57.1	20.0
11	G	Steve Mello	6-1/178	Sr.	2.1	1.1	0.1	30.5	68.4	14.3
42	F	Marcel Mompalair	6-8/200	Jr.	3.5	3.0	0.2	55.2	54.8	0.0
	F	J.R. Moore	6-9/240	Fr.	Tough defender, vocal leader.					
5	G	Dawan Robinson	6-2/185	Jr.	11.2	2.8	1.9	42.7	73.0	26.3
	G	Tyrese Sullivan	5-10/165	So.	Potential for huge offensive production.					
32	F	Jamaal Wise	6-5/190	Jr.	4.5	3.3	0.4	37.9	55.7	0.0
20	G	Brian Woodward*	6-3/180	Sr.	14.1	6.0	2.3	39.0	74.4	35.0

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Lazare Adingono*	6-6/195	11.8	4.4	1.2	39.9	70.2	37.1
G	Howard Smith*	6-3/180	2.9	3.4	4.1	30.5	70.6	15.2

Schedule

N21 Northeastern	D21 New Hampshire	J14 at Temple	F11 Temple
N23-26 Las Vegas Cl.	D23 Charlotte	J17 at St. Bonaventure	F14 at Saint Joseph's
N30 at Syracuse	D28 Iona	J21 Duquesne	F18 at Massachusetts
D3 at Brown	D31 Vermont	J24 at Fordham	F21 St. Bonaventure
D8 Providence	J4 Fordham	F1 Massachusetts	F25 Richmond
D13 at Kent State	J7 Yale	F4 at La Salle	F28 Saint Joseph's
	J11 Xavier	F7 at G. Washington	M3 at Dayton

4. Massachusetts

WHAT WE LIKE: The Minutemen return three starters from last year's disappointing team, and they have a strong crop of newcomers. Point guard Anthony Anderson is a reliable distributor whose numbers are squelched somewhat by his teammates' inability to score. Look for him to share time with 6-3 junior college transfer Chris Chadwick, who has 4 inches on Anderson and is more of a scoring threat. The Minutemen will be counting on another newcomer, Maurice Maxwell, to play the wing. Maxwell is a pure scorer but also will pass the ball. Considering this team struggled to put up points last season, Maxwell should get a big green light. Further backcourt production should come from senior Marcus Cox, a disappointment last season, and freshman Art Bowers.

WHAT SCARES US: The Minutemen were awful offensively last season, and the rebounding was just as bad. With top rebounders Jackie Rogers and Micah Brand gone, will the team be even worse on the boards? Coach Steve Lappas needs forward Rashaun Freeman, who sat out last season as a non-qualifier, to provide immediate interior muscle. He'll team with junior Gabe Lee, who was somewhat impressive last year, and sophomore Jeff Viggiano on a front line with a lot to prove. It wouldn't hurt if UMass reduced its turnovers, either.

X-FACTOR: UMass hasn't been an offensive juggernaut for years, but Chadwick, Maxwell and Bowers should allow it to run a little more and make games more exciting to watch. Even John Calipari's teams engaged in some scrums, but things have been truly dreadful the past few seasons. Perhaps the new arrivals signal a thaw in the team's offensive approach.

Minutemen data

Coach: Steve Lappas (24-34, 2 years; 254-206 overall, 15 years; NCAA Tournament 2-4).
Assistant coaches: John Leonard (2 years), Andrew Theokas (2).
2002-03 record: 11-18, Atlantic 10

East: 6-10/4th.

Last regular-season title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Amherst, Mass.

Home court: Mullins Center (9,493).

Website: www.umassathletics.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
12	G	Anthony Anderson*	5-11/170	Sr.	11.8	4.3	3.7	41.7	75.7	39.2
34	G	Art Bowers	6-4/190	Fr.	Likely to start from Day 1.					
	F	Lawrence Carrier	6-8/225	Fr.	Adds much-needed size to roster.					
13	G	Chris Chadwick	6-3/195	Jr.	Lappas' first-ever JC recruit can shoot.					
50	G/F	Marcus Cox	6-4/205	Sr.	4.8	2.5	1.5	42.5	51.1	10.7
1	F	Rashaun Freeman	6-9/255	So.	Sat out last year because of academics.					
14	G	Paco Kotaridis	6-1/190	Sr.	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0	100.0	0.0
21	F	Alassane Kouyate	6-8/200	So.	0.1	0.6	0.1	16.7	0.0	—
	F	Stephane Lasme	6-8/190	Fr.	Spent last three years on Gabon National Team.					
2	F/C	Gabe Lee*	6-9/210	Jr.	5.6	4.0	0.8	50.4	43.2	0.0
0	F	Brennan Martin	6-6/190	Jr.	3.0	1.3	0.8	32.3	75.0	32.8
11	G	Maurice Maxwell	6-5/175	Fr.	Averaged 26.0 ppg, 9.0 rpg, 12.0 apg last year.					
22	F	Jeff Viggiano*	6-6/215	So.	7.0	2.9	2.3	35.6	58.3	23.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F/C	Micah Brand*	6-11/243	7.6	4.1	1.1	44.7	73.1	33.3
F	Raheim Lamb	6-5/190	3.4	2.7	0.7	42.5	66.7	0.0
G	Michael Lasme	6-2/190	7.5	3.1	2.6	32.3	62.7	27.4
F	Jackie Rogers*	6-8/230	12.9	5.5	0.9	59.9	73.8	—

Schedule

D23	Maine	J21	at Saint Joseph's	F18	Rhode Island
N17-28	Preseason NIT	D30	at Connecticut	J24	Temple
N24	Hartford	J3	Tennessee	J28	Fordham
D2	Vermont	J7	La Salle	F1	at Rhode Island
D6	at Boston College	J10	G. Washington	F3	at Rider
D9	Central Conn.	J14	at St. Bonaventure	F8	Dayton
D20	Marshall	J17	at Duquesne	F14	at Xavier
					M3 at Temple
					M6 at Richmond

5. Fordham

WHAT WE LIKE: First off, let us send a not-so-fond farewell to ousted Rams coach Bob Hill, whose arrival at Fordham triggered a mammoth collapse in the program's fortunes. Give Hill credit for being detrimental right to the end. His final act was to inform Kentucky coach Tubby Smith that the letter-of-intent signed by 7-1 Polish center Lukasz Obrzut was not entirely binding. That let UK lure Obrzut from Rose Hill. The good news is that new coach Dereck Whittenburg is one of the NCAA's rising talents. Just don't expect big things this season. He'll benefit from seniors Michael Haynes, a jack-of-all-trades, and Mark Jarrell-Wright, a talented wing whose shooting eye must be refocused. Junior college import Derrick Breland has potential at the point, and the backcourt trio of Jermaine Anderson, Drew Williamson and John Blackgrove provides good outside shooting.

WHAT SCARES US: Who will rebound? Last season, the Rams were outrebounded by 5.7 per game. Though Haynes will grab eight to 10 a game, no one else is a lock for five. Sophomore Mitar Zivanovic, who sat out last season as a partial qualifier, has potential, but don't look for immediate combustion. Expect freshman Dominic Osei to get plenty of time up front. The other main concern is how long it will take the new coach to sift through Hill's rubble. Is there enough on hand for a quick turnaround, or will this take three or four years? Bet on the latter.

X-FACTOR: Whittenburg took Wagner to the NCAA Tournament last season, and the Seahawks stayed close with Pittsburgh for the first half of their first-round game. The Rams made a good decision hiring Whittenburg and should expect the program's fortunes to begin turning around fairly soon.

Rams data

Coach: Dereck Whittenburg (1st season; 67-50 overall, 4 years).
Assistant coaches: Ross Burns (1st year), Alex Groothuis (1st), Travis Lyons (1st), Ray Martin (1st).
2002-03 record: 2-26, Atlantic 10
 East: 3-13/5th.

Last regular-season title: 1994

(Patriot).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Bronx, N.Y.

Home court: Rose Hill Gym (3,470).

Website: www.fordham.edu/athletics

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
23	G	Alessandro Acquaviva	6-4/190	Sr.	0.9	0.2	0.4	44.4	83.3	28.6
10	G	Jermaine Anderson	6-1/180	So.	5.9	2.5	2.5	41.5	68.8	40.0
12	G	John Blackgrove	6-2/180	So.	9.2	1.6	0.5	36.7	69.7	35.3
	G	Derrick Breland	5-10/170	Jr.	JC transfer counted on to play the point.					
1	F	Michael Haynes*	6-8/215	Sr.	15.2	8.0	2.1	40.4	62.9	34.6
11	G	Mark Jarrell-Wright*	6-5/190	Sr.	11.0	4.1	2.2	37.6	69.9	22.5
	G/F	Dominic Osei	6-5/210	Fr.	Rams could use his help immediately.					
3	G/F	Drew Williamson*	6-4/200	So.	6.3	2.8	1.5	42.6	64.6	39.2
51	F	Mushon Ya-akosi	6-8/230	So.	3.3	2.1	0.2	56.8	44.4	—
50	C	Mitar Zivanovic	7-1/234	So.	He's big enough to get a rebound or two.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
C	Glenn Batemon*	6-11/360	10.4	5.6	0.5	50.5	53.6	—
G/F	Ashanti Burke	6-7/190	1.4	1.6	0.4	32.0	22.2	18.8
G	Anthonique Wilson*	6-2/190	3.4	3.2	2.3	42.4	72.9	30.0

Schedule

D13	Western Michigan	J13	at Saint Joseph's	F14	at Richmond
N22	at Memphis	D23	at Iona	J17	Dayton
N25	at Siena	D28	Boston University	J24	Rhode Island
N29	at Manhattan	D31	Western Kentucky	J28	at Massachusetts
D2	at Fairfield	J4	at Rhode Island	F4	Temple
D6	Northeastern	J6	Columbia	F7	at Xavier
D10	at Holy Cross	J10	St. Bonaventure	F11	G. Washington
					M6 at St. Bonaventure
					F21 Massachusetts
					F25 at Duquesne
					F29 at Temple
					M3 La Salle

6. St. Bonaventure

WHAT WE LIKE: Jan van Breda Kolff is gone, and that's a good thing. The former coach was such a weak leader he couldn't even talk his team out of quitting last season after it was learned the Bonnies had been using an ineligible player and would have to forfeit games. VBK's departure is a loss only for those who enjoyed watching St. Bonaventure try to outscore everybody while playing little defense. New coach Anthony Solomon brings solid credentials and a reputation for having integrity. Solomon will try to build a respectable team around Marques Green, who led the league in five categories, including scoring, last season. But that was accomplished in VBK's no-conscience attack. Although the Bonnies will continue to move quickly, Green's numbers may sag. As for the supporting cast, Maurice Young and Ahmad Smith have the best opportunities to make an impact, though neither was a stalwart last season.

WHAT SCARES US: Everything else. The Bonnies might have only nine scholarship players, and they don't have enough size. That means rebounding and interior defense will be huge problems. Solomon might be forced to resort to gimmicks to defend opponents. Green will get his, but no other Bonnie has a track record that indicates he can provide much support. Don't expect a whole lot from the recruits.

X-FACTOR: Solomon inherits a stern challenge. In addition to trying to field a respectable team, he must deal with the long-term effects of van Breda Kolff's blunders. Though Solomon's track record is impeccable, this is a tough situation for anyone to take over, much less someone who never has been a college head coach. What Solomon needs more than anything is time.

Bonnies data

Coach: Anthony Solomon (1st season).

Assistant coaches: Jayson Gee (1st season), David First (1st), John Brannen (1st).

2002-2003 record: 13-14, Atlantic 10 East: 1-15/6th.

Last regular-season title: 1983 (tie, A-10 West).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Olean, N.Y.

Home court: Reilly Center (6,000).

Website: www.gobonnies.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

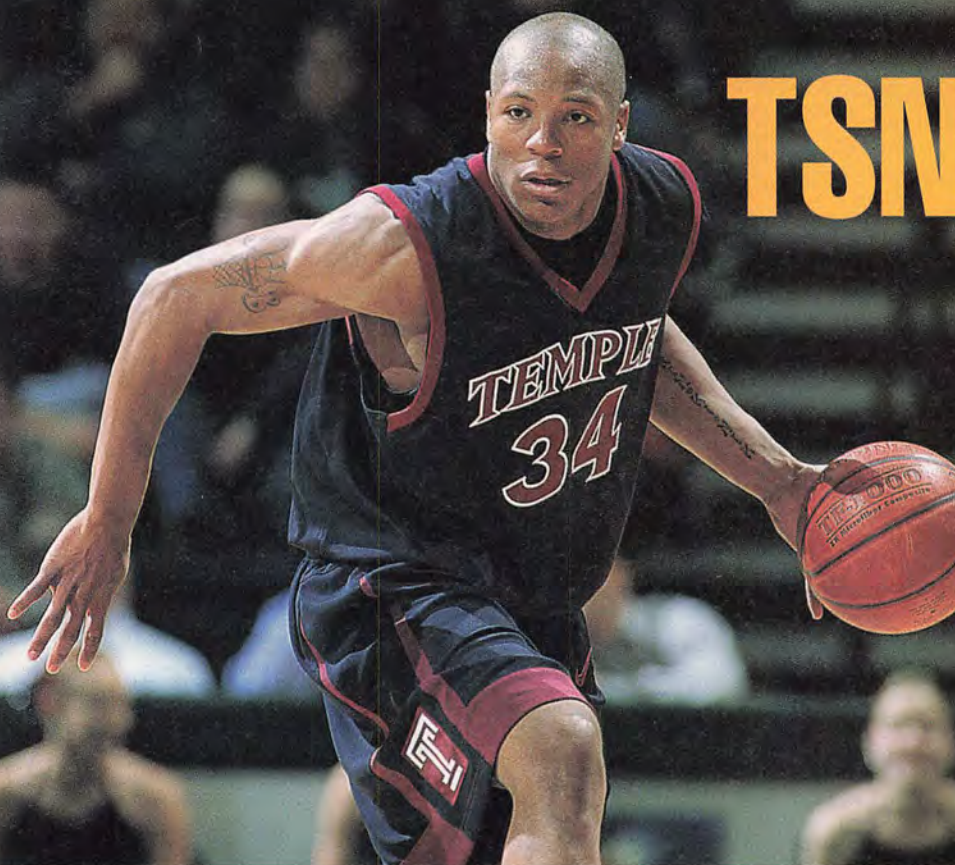
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
C		Yankuba Camara	6-11/265	Jr.	Gives the Bonnies much-needed height.					
G		Kern Carter	6-2/185	Fr.	Sat out final H.S. season with groin injury.					
11	F	Saulius Dumbiauskas	6-8/225	Jr.	1.3	1.5	0.3	36.8	100.0	0.0
4	G	Marques Green*	5-7/160	Sr.	21.3	3.7	8.0	39.5	87.9	39.2
24	F/G	Patrick Methot-Lottin	6-6/215	So.	3.5	1.5	0.8	25.0	75.0	33.3
15	G	Issa Skinner	5-8/150	Jr.	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	G	Ahmad Smith	6-4/190	So.	6.0	2.3	1.8	41.9	69.6	41.7
F		Andy Smith	6-6/205	Fr.	Born and raised in Littlehampton, England.					
21	F	Cortez Sutton	6-7/210	Jr.	3.0	0.8	0.2	42.3	40.0	50.0
23	F	Maurice Young	6-5/200	Jr.	5.9	2.9	1.2	34.0	52.9	38.0

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Robert Cheeks*	6-6/205	2.5	3.2	0.4	46.2	78.3	50.0
G/F	Mike Gansey*	6-4/205	13.9	5.0	1.2	46.2	83.3	40.2
G/F	Patricio Prato*	6-5/205	13.3	5.0	1.6	38.8	80.6	29.9
G	Joe Shepherd	6-2/190	6.9	2.3	0.8	44.4	66.7	32.1
F/C	Jamil Terrell*	6-8/230	6.9	4.8	0.3	61.0	61.7	—

Schedule

N21 Robert Morris	D20 North Texas	J24 Saint Joseph's	F25 Xavier
N24 Ark.-Little Rock	D23 at George Mason	J28 at Temple	F28 at Massachusetts
N29 at Creighton	D27 Kent State**	J31 Duquesne	M3 at Saint Joseph's
D3 Syracuse*	J3 at Boston College	F4 at G. Washington	M6 Fordham
D6 Canisius	J7 at Dayton	F7 Temple	*at Rochester, N.Y.
D10 Iona	J10 at Fordham	F14 at La Salle	**at Cleveland
D17 at Niagara	J14 Massachusetts	F18 Richmond	
	J17 Rhode Island	F21 at Rhode Island	



TSN Number 14.4

Margin of victory in Temple's last 15 wins. John Chaney's teams are known for the matchup zone, but this season's team also might feature an uptempo attack. David Hawkins is the leading returning scorer at 16.9 points per game.

1. Xavier

WHAT WE LIKE: Four starters are back, and so is coach Thad Matta, who will be mentioned for job openings as long as he continues to win. With several newcomers, the Musketeers' bench will be filled for the first time in a while. That means more chances to run and press. Of course, the big reason to smile is the return of wing Romain Sato, a physical defender and excellent perimeter shooter. He and fellow senior Lionel Chalmers are a potent backcourt combination in a three-guard scheme. Sophomore Dedrick Finn showed the ability to run the team and has star potential. Anybody who saw Anthony Myles' inside play last season had to be impressed. He's ready to break out. And the arrival of wing Justin Cage, who was Mr. Basketball last year in Indiana, and power forward Boubacar Coly will provide needed depth and athletic ability.

WHAT SCARES US: The departure of four-year stalwart David West leaves no take-charge player on the roster. Sato, for all his talent, is too reticent. If he undergoes a personality change, the Musketeers will be fine. If he remains shy and reserved, Xavier will have trouble with tougher opponents. There also is the matter of rebounding. Though Sato and Myles will board, no other returning player averaged even three a game last season. It is imperative that Will Caudle, Cage and Coly bring muscle to the glass.

X-FACTOR: Finn demonstrated he could do just about anything a point man is supposed to as a freshman last year, but he was about the fifth option on offense. He needs to be more aggressive taking the ball to the basket and finishing rather than always setting up teammates. Finn attempted only 75 free throws last season, way too few for someone who had the ball in his hands so much.

Musketeers data

Coach: Thad Matta (52-12, 2 years; 76-20 overall, 3 years; NCAA Tournament 3-3).
Assistant coaches: Sean Miller (2 years), Alan Major (2), John Groce (2).
2002-03 record: 26-6; Atlantic 10

West: 15-1/1st; Lost to Maryland in NCAA South second round.
Last regular-season title: 2003.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Cincinnati.
Home court: Cintas Center (10,250).
Website: www.xavier.edu/athletics

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
22	G	Robert Barker	6-5/200	Fr.	Had 24.1 ppg as a junior before injury.					
50	F	Justin Cage	6-6/215	Fr.	Led Indiana H.S. to two state titles in three years.					
52	F/C	Will Caudle	6-9/240	So.	3.7	1.7	0.3	54.9	75.0	—
0	G	Lionel Chalmers*	6-0/180	Sr.	12.0	2.7	4.0	44.3	77.1	39.2
32	G	Keenan Christiansen	6-4/210	So.	1.8	0.6	0.7	33.3	83.3	23.1
21	F	Boubacar Coly	6-9/215	Fr.	Active defender; rebounds and blocks shots.					
54	F	Tom Compton	6-11/250	Sr.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	50.0	0.0
15	F	Justin Doellman	6-8/210	Fr.	Versatile. Can distribute, shoot and rebound.					
12	G	Dedrick Finn*	6-1/180	So.	7.6	2.1	4.3	40.9	68.0	43.0
25	G	Keith Jackson	6-5/215	Jr.	5.0	2.6	1.5	43.2	66.7	—
24	F/C	Anthony Myles*	6-9/245	Sr.	10.2	6.8	1.0	47.3	55.3	—
10	G	Romain Sato*	6-5/205	Sr.	18.1	7.1	2.3	41.1	80.9	34.0
11	F	Angelo Smith	6-8/220	So.	1.3	1.2	0.1	28.0	44.4	0.0

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	David West*	6-9/240	20.1	11.8	3.2	51.3	81.6	34.6

Schedule

D28	Elon	J25	Richmond	F18	at La Salle
N15-17	BCA Classic*	D30	Morehead State	J28	at G. Washington
N25	at Ball State	J3	Alabama	J31	at Dayton
N29	Indiana**	J11	at Rhode Island	F3	Cincinnati
D9	at Miami (Ohio)	J14	at Duquesne	F7	Fordham
D13	at Miss. State	J17	Saint Joseph's	F11	at Richmond
D23	at Texas	J21	La Salle	F14	Massachusetts
					*at Cintas Center
					*at Indianapolis

2. Dayton

WHAT WE LIKE: Four starters return, three of whom were double-figure scorers last season. That's a pretty good starting point for new coach Brian Gregory, someone else we like. He was a rising star while an assistant at Michigan State and should carry on the good work done by Oliver Purnell. The Flyers have a good perimeter complement, with Ramod Marshall at shooting guard, and Mark Jones at the point. Add in freshman Chris Spears, and Dayton's backcourt is in good shape. Up front, Keith Waleskowski and Sean Finn give the Flyers two interior forces.

WHAT SCARES US: The closest thing Dayton had to an offensive leader last season was Brooks Hall, and he's gone. The hope is that Monty Scott, a non-qualifier a year ago, can step in at Hall's wing spot, but Scott will be rusty. Waleskowski and Marshall are veterans, but neither has been a full-time first option on offense. One or both must step forward, and it's likely that will happen. Gregory is expected to bring MSU's patterned offense with him, and that will let the seniors assert themselves. A pair of sophomores, Logan White and Marques Bennett, were counted on for contributions last season but weren't ready. They must improve, particularly on defense, to give Dayton depth.

X-FACTOR: With Hall around, Marshall never took over and became the 15 to 18 ppg man the Flyers could have used. It's up to Marshall, now a senior, to give the Flyers a backcourt weapon who can be counted on for sizeable production every game. He made 37.9 percent of his 3-pointers last season but faltered at times inside the arc and converted only 65.8 percent of his free throws. If Dayton wants to return to the NCAA Tournament this season, Marshall must become more accurate and reliable.

Flyers data

Coach: Brian Gregory (1st year).
Assistant coaches: Mike Jackson (1st year), Billy Schmidt (1st), Morgan Cassara (1st).
2002-03 record: 24-6; Atlantic 10
 West: 14-2/2nd. Lost to Tulsa in NCAA Midwest first round.

Last regular-season title: 2000 (Atlantic 10 West).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.
Site: Dayton, Ohio.
Home court: University of Dayton Arena (13,266).
Website: www.daytonflyers.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
22	G/F	Marques Bennett	6-5/190	So.	0.5	—	—	50.0	—	50.0
44	C	James Cripe	6-10/244	Fr.	Redshirted to have time to develop.					
54	C	Sean Finn*	7-0/240	Sr.	10.0	5.3	2.7	70.7	64.3	—
42	F	Frank Iguodala	6-5/210	Sr.	0.7	1.0	1.8	41.7	46.2	—
13	G	Greg Kohls	6-2/170	Sr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
14	G	Mark Jones*	6-1/180	Jr.	8.0	3.4	3.4	38.5	66.1	38.3
3	G	Ramod Marshall*	6-2/180	Sr.	12.2	2.2	4.8	42.3	65.8	37.9
1	F	Monty Scott	6-6/226	So.	Non-qualifier last season.					
2	G	Chris Spears	6-2/180	Fr.	Three-point specialist in high school.					
45	C/F	Keith Waleskowski*	6-8/231	Sr.	12.7	8.2	1.0	53.2	77.9	33.3
15	G	Logan White	6-5/172	So.	0.8	0.4	0.4	14.3	91.7	22.2
11	G	Warren Williams	6-0/190	So.	1.8	0.7	1.0	30.4	66.7	26.7

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Nate Green	6-6/245	5.6	3.4	0.8	41.6	71.8	—
G/F	Brooks Hall*	6-6/210	12.8	6.9	2.3	43.9	76.5	39.9
G/F	D.J. Stelly	6-4/200	7.4	3.4	1.2	34.5	76.2	29.8

Schedule

D20	Prairie View A&M	J14	at Richmond	F11	at Saint Joseph's
N21	at Pepperdine	D23	at Cincinnati	J17	at Fordham
N24-26	Maui Invit.*	D29	Wofford	J21	G. Washington
D3	Miami (Ohio)	D31	Saint Louis	J24	at La Salle
D6	Wagner	J3	at Wyoming	J31	Xavier
D9	La-Lafayette	J7	St. Bonaventure	F4	Richmond
D13	IUPUI	J10	Temple	F8	at Massachusetts
					*at Maui, Hawaii

3. La Salle

WHAT WE LIKE: When Billy Hahn took over at La Salle, he was heralded as a strong recruiter who could bring real talent back to the program. Now, the Explorers can boast one of the league's most impressive collections of young talent. Gary Neal was an offensive stalwart as a freshman last season, scoring from all over the court. Sophomore Steven Smith is an all-around threat who could be a 20-10 man in the not-so distant future. Point guard Jermaine Thomas struggled at times last season with his shot, but he was fearless and always exciting. This season's newcomers fortify the frontcourt. The best of the bunch is center Mbainai Narmbaye, the kind of active big man La Salle has lacked. He and banger Mike St. John should make La Salle less susceptible to A-10 bullies.

WHAT SCARES US: This still is a young team, and it could have substantial breakdowns periodically. If those lapses last just a game or two, La Salle should contend for an NIT berth. If a bad game or two turns into a nightmarish skid, look out. Explorers fans no doubt also fear the injury bug. Smith missed nine games, defensive specialist Rasheed Quadri sat out seven and guard Mike Cleaves wasn't himself all last season. The frontcourt remains a concern despite the arrival of St. John and Narmbaye. Asking two freshmen to carry the bulk of the interior load might be asking too much, with foul trouble and fatigue constant dangers.

X-FACTOR: Last season wasn't kind to Cleaves. His knee bothered him, and he struggled with the added attention after his strong debut. Plus, Thomas and Neal pushed him for minutes. The result was decaying confidence. But don't dismiss Cleaves. He's a talented player who was fearless as a freshman and could rebound to give the backcourt a big boost this season.

Explorers data

Coach: Billy Hahn (27-34, 2 years; 69-79 overall, 5 years).

Assistant coaches: Roland Houston (4 years), John Gallagher (4), Matthew Hahn (1st).

2002-03 record: 12-17. Atlantic 10

West: 6-10/4th.

Last regular-season title: 1990 (MAAC South).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Philadelphia.

Home court: Tom Gola Arena (4,000).

Website: www.goexplorers.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
24	F	David Bell	6-7/190	So.	7.5	4.8	0.7	32.2	72.7	21.6
10	G	Mike Cleaves	5-10/175	Jr.	6.9	3.5	2.4	33.7	62.2	17.6
21	F/C	Lewis Fadipe	6-10/215	So.	2.7	2.1	0.2	61.1	62.5	—
3	G	Jeff Farmer	6-5/195	Jr.	2.2	1.1	0.6	31.8	50.0	34.1
25	F/C	Joel Jean-Baptiste	6-9/270	Sr.	1.8	2.2	0.0	37.2	63.0	—
12	F	Dzaflor Larkai*	6-8/215	So.	4.4	4.0	0.2	46.4	65.0	—
50	C	Mbainai Narmbaye	6-10/228	Fr.	Chad native played in New Jersey last year.					
14	G	Gary Neal*	6-4/175	So.	18.6	4.2	1.6	40.0	81.7	37.4
20	G	Sean Neal	6-2/185	Fr.	Averaged 17.0 points at prep school.					
5	G	Rasheed Quadri	6-3/180	Sr.	4.9	2.2	1.0	43.1	55.0	31.0
42	C	Mike St. John	6-8/230	Fr.	Averaged a double-double in high school.					
23	G	Kurt Simmons	6-6/185	Sr.	1.3	1.2	0.0	43.8	40.0	—
30	F	Steven Smith*	6-8/225	So.	14.5	8.1	0.9	51.0	75.7	37.5
2	G	Jermaine Thomas*	6-2/175	So.	11.5	2.8	4.3	38.2	79.0	34.3
4	G	Matt Thornton	6-1/170	Sr.	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.0	—	—

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Dwayne Jones*	6-5/195	1.2	0.9	0.3	37.5	100.0	16.7

Schedule

N21	Wichita State*	D22	Va. Commonwealth	J24	Dayton	D25	Temple
N22	Hampton*	D29-30	Chattanooga Cl.**	J28	at Duquesne	D28	at Dayton
N29	at Lafayette	J3	Seton Hall	F4	Rhode Island	M3	at Fordham
D3	James Madison	J7	at Massachusetts	F7	at Saint Joseph's	M6	G. Washington
D6	Villanova	J10	Richmond	F11	Duquesne		*at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
D13	at Fla. International	J15	Pennsylvania	F14	St. Bonaventure		**at Chattanooga, Tenn.
D20	Mount St. Mary's	J18	at G. Washington	F18	Xavier		
		J21	at Xavier	F22	at Richmond		

4. Richmond

WHAT WE LIKE: There are plenty of familiar faces around, guaranteeing good depth and keeping hopes high for a fourth straight postseason berth. Guard Tony Dobbins is a tremendously disruptive defensive force, and Mike Skrocki can be a reliable scorer off the dribble and from behind the arc. The return of Reggie Brown, who missed all but three games last season because of a back injury, fortifies the backcourt, and Jamaal Scott is a solid interior performer. Eric Zwyer is a capable inside scorer, and sophomore Kevin Steenberge showed signs of interior promise last year. Freshman Daon Merritt is a point guard who has the ability to penetrate, and classmate Andres Sandoval is a good shooter.

WHAT SCARES US: Sandoval had better be able to shoot because not many Spiders could last season. Dobbins was shaky even close to the hoop, and Skrocki's eye deserted him almost completely. Merritt has potential and must step right in because there is no other true point on the roster. Rebounding looks to be a problem again because the Spiders have no one back who averaged six boards a night; in fact, their top returning rebounder is the 6-4 Dobbins (5.9 rpg). Richmond will play great defense, but it often struggled to score last season.

X-FACTOR: Two seasons ago, Skrocki thrilled Richmond fans with his long-range shooting and helped key the team's late-season run from behind the arc. But last season, in a featured role, he had problems. Skrocki has a great shooting stroke, but it abandoned him in every situation last season except from the foul line. The Richmond offense wasn't dynamic last year, and though the incoming players are more predisposed to score, a veteran such as Skrocki must come through, too.

Spiders data

Coach: Jerry Wainwright (15-14, 1 year; 151-117 overall, 9 years; NCAA Tournament 1-2).

Assistant coaches: Mike Winiacki (1 year), Ramon Williams (1), Gary DeCesare (1).

2002-03 record: 15-14. Atlantic 10

West: 10-6/3rd. Lost to Providence in NIT first round.

Last regular-season title: 1998 (CAA).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Richmond, Va.

Home court: Robins Center (9,171).

Website: www.richmondspiders.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
12	G	Reggie Brown	6-4/190	Sr.	8.3	1.3	0.3	75.0	50.0	75.0
1	G	Tony Dobbins*	6-4/190	Sr.	10.8	5.9	3.1	40.9	74.0	12.2
10	G	Daon Merritt	5-9/190	Fr.	Ranked among top 100 in recruiting class.					
15	F	Gaston Molina	6-7/230	Fr.	Strong as well as strong-willed.					
25	F	Patrick O'Malley	6-8/220	Jr.	4.1	2.0	0.5	41.5	75.0	43.9
3	G	Andres Sandoval	6-3/185	Fr.	Likely to play at both backcourt spots.					
14	F	Jamaal Scott*	6-5/215	Jr.	9.9	3.5	1.2	42.9	66.7	34.8
22	G/F	Mike Skrocki*	6-6/190	Sr.	11.2	3.6	1.7	31.9	83.9	29.2
51	C	Kevin Steenberge	6-11/225	So.	2.9	3.0	0.3	48.6	44.4	0.0
55	C	Eric Zwyer*	6-9/250	Sr.	7.2	4.5	0.5	50.3	66.2	0.0

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
C	Johnathan Collins	6-9/200	2.6	3.1	0.5	49.2	55.0	—
G	Will Holloman	6-0/180	2.2	0.9	0.3	44.4	77.8	29.4
G	Jason Morton	6-1/180	1.7	0.7	0.7	33.3	100.0	50.0
G	Jeff Myers*	6-1/190	11.0	2.9	4.1	40.3	65.0	37.0

Schedule

N19-21	BCA Classic*	D23	Providence	J25	at Xavier	F25	La Salle
N25	TBA	D29	Hampton	J31	G. Washington	F28	at Rhode Island
N29	at UAB	J4	Duquesne	F4	at Dayton	M6	at G. Washington
D3	Va. Commonwealth	J6	Saint Joseph's	F7	at Duquesne		*at Lexington, Ky.
D6	at Wake Forest	J10	at La Salle	F11	Xavier		**at New York
D13	at South Florida	J14	Dayton	F14	Fordham		
D17	Marshall	J17	at Temple	F18	at St. Bonaventure		

5. George Washington

WHAT WE LIKE: Four starters and a couple of key reserves will team with a promising group of newcomers to give the Colonials a solid foundation. Junior point T.J. Thompson improved last year, but his 122 turnovers were way too many. He'll be pushed by UNLV transfer Lafonte Johnson. Whoever takes best care of the ball should play the most minutes. The other backcourt spot should belong to freshman Ricky Lucas, who averaged 23 ppg in high school last year. The frontcourt boasts three capable scorers/rebounders in Pops Mensah-Bonsu, Mike Hall and Division III transfer Rock Battistoni, who figures to be an inside force.

WHAT SCARES US: For the first time in what seems like nine years, the Colonials will be playing without Chris Monroe, G.W.'s all-time scoring leader. His absence will create a leadership vacuum and rob the team of its only proven big-time scorer. Though there are several candidates for his job, there is no guarantee anyone will step up. An egalitarian approach to scoring is nice in the first 35 minutes of games, but crunch time demands a takeover specialist. The Colonials also must improve their field goal-percentage defense. G.W. finished ahead of only St. Bonaventure in that area last year. Pressuring the ball and forcing turnovers is fun, but successful teams clamp down the interior.

X-FACTOR: Lucas is a 6-4 wing who has a solid frame and excellent scoring instincts. That's just what G.W. needs with Monroe gone. But Lucas must exercise restraint because few freshmen arrive on campus prepackaged for 20-points-a-night duty, unless they're taking 25 shots a game. If Lucas approaches his new job somewhat cautiously, he'll be just fine—and so will G.W.

Colonials data

Coach: Karl Hobbs (24-33, 2 years).
Assistant coaches: Kevin Broadus (2 years), Darrell Brooks (2), Steve Pikiell (2).
2002-03 record: 12-17. Atlantic 10 West: 5-11/5th.

Last regular-season title: 1999

(A-10 West).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Washington, D.C.

Home court: Charles E. Smith Center (5,000).

Website: www.gwsports.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
31	F	Rock Battistoni	6-8/220	Jr.	Transfer from Division III St. Lawrence.					
34	G	Greg Collucci	6-3/181	Sr.	4.2	1.3	0.8	32.6	52.4	27.3
23	F	Jaz Cowan	6-8/213	So.	1.1	0.6	0.0	33.0	42.9	20.0
25	G	Carl Elliott	6-3/210	Fr.	Solidly-built point man adds depth.					
44	F	Tamal Forchion*	6-6/240	Jr.	4.5	2.5	0.5	43.0	43.9	—
50	C	Jaaron Greene	6-10/275	Fr.	Product of famed Mt. Zion Academy.					
3	F	Mike Hall*	6-8/202	So.	9.7	8.2	1.5	45.9	74.7	33.3
12	G	Lafonte Johnson	5-10/175	Jr.	Played in 58 games in two years at UNLV.					
13	F	Alexander Kireev	6-11/223	So.	2.4	1.5	0.3	44.2	68.4	50.0
11	G	Ricky Lucas	6-4/192	Fr.	Super scorer is most touted newcomer.					
21	F	Pops Mensah-Bonsu*	6-9/220	So.	10.1	5.7	0.4	58.5	66.7	—
2	F	J.R. Pinnock	6-5/210	Fr.	Considered No. 2 player in Virginia.					
5	G	T.J. Thompson*	5-11/177	Jr.	12.6	2.6	6.1	41.8	80.5	39.2
1	F	Omar Williams	6-9/180	So.	6.4	4.8	1.6	43.5	66.2	0.0

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Chris Monroe*	6-3/225	20.3	5.0	1.9	43.1	71.4	33.3

Schedule

Schedule		D10	Towson	J18	La Salle	F11	at Fordham
N21	at Charlotte	D20	at Old Dominion	J21	at Dayton	F18	Dayton
N25	Florida	D23	at Fairfield	J24	Duquesne	F21	at Duquesne
International		D29	at Texas	J28	Xavier	F28	Richmond
N28-29	Auerbach Classic	J3	at Saint Joseph's	J31	at Richmond	M3	at Xavier
D3	at Appalachian St.	J7	Temple	F4	St. Bonaventure	M6	at La Salle
D6-7	BB&T Classic	J10	at Massachusetts	F7	Rhode Island		

Dukes data

Coach: Danny Nee (18-40, 2 years; 386-319 overall, 23 years; NCAA Tournament 1-7).

Assistant coaches: Charles Cunningham (2 years), Randy Roth (2), John Mahoney (2).

2002-03 record: 9-21; Atlantic 10

West: 4-12/6th.

Last regular-season title: 1981 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1977.

Site: Pittsburgh.

Home court: A.J. Palumbo Center (6,200).

Website: www.goduquesne.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
42	F/C	Kieron Achara	6-9/230	Fr.	Scottish national teamer has 7-3 wingspan.					
32	G	Tyler Bluemling	6-2/180	Jr.	1.5	0.7	0.6	36.7	54.5	36.8
41	C	Ron Dokes*	6-9/240	Sr.	10.3	5.1	1.2	48.3	70.1	17.6
23	G	Jack Higgins	6-5/180	So.	Cleveland State transfer will add scoring.					
22	G	Bryant McAllister*	6-3/185	So.	7.6	2.3	2.6	42.7	69.4	27.9
25	F	Sean McKeon	6-9/230	Fr.	Had nine double-doubles in senior H.S. season.					
5	G	Martin Osinami	6-3/205	Jr.	JC recruit has international experience.					
4	F	Elijah Palmer*	6-7/215	Sr.	9.6	5.5	1.6	46.0	58.0	26.7
33	F	Jon Pawlak	6-9/200	Jr.	2002-03 redshirt is a solid shooter.					
3	G	Mike Spadafora	6-3/180	Fr.	2002-03 walk-on redshirted last season.					
44	G	Jimmy Tricco*	6-8/200	Sr.	10.4	3.4	2.2	43.7	63.9	42.9
20	G	Ryan Tricco	6-4/210	So.	Led JC team with 16.1 ppg in 2001-02.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Kevin Forney	6-4/190	13.4	3.3	2.1	49.7	81.0	41.6
F	Brad Midgley	6-5/210	6.3	3.4	1.5	39.7	71.6	36.1
C	Simplice Njoya*	6-10/225	7.7	5.0	0.7	41.7	67.7	40.0

Schedule

Schedule		D20	George Mason	J14	Xavier	F11	at La Salle
N25	Prairie View A&M	D22	at Minnesota	J17	Massachusetts	F15	at Dayton
N29	Siena	D28	Robert Morris	J21	at Rhode Island	F18	at Temple
D3	Pittsburgh	D31	Cornell	J24	at G. Washington	F21	G. Washington
D6	Loyola (Md.)	J4	at Richmond	J28	La Salle	F25	Fordham
D13	at West Virginia	J7	Ohio University	J31	at St. Bonaventure	F28	at Xavier
D17	at Akron	J10	Saint Joseph's	F7	Richmond	M6	Dayton

6. Duquesne

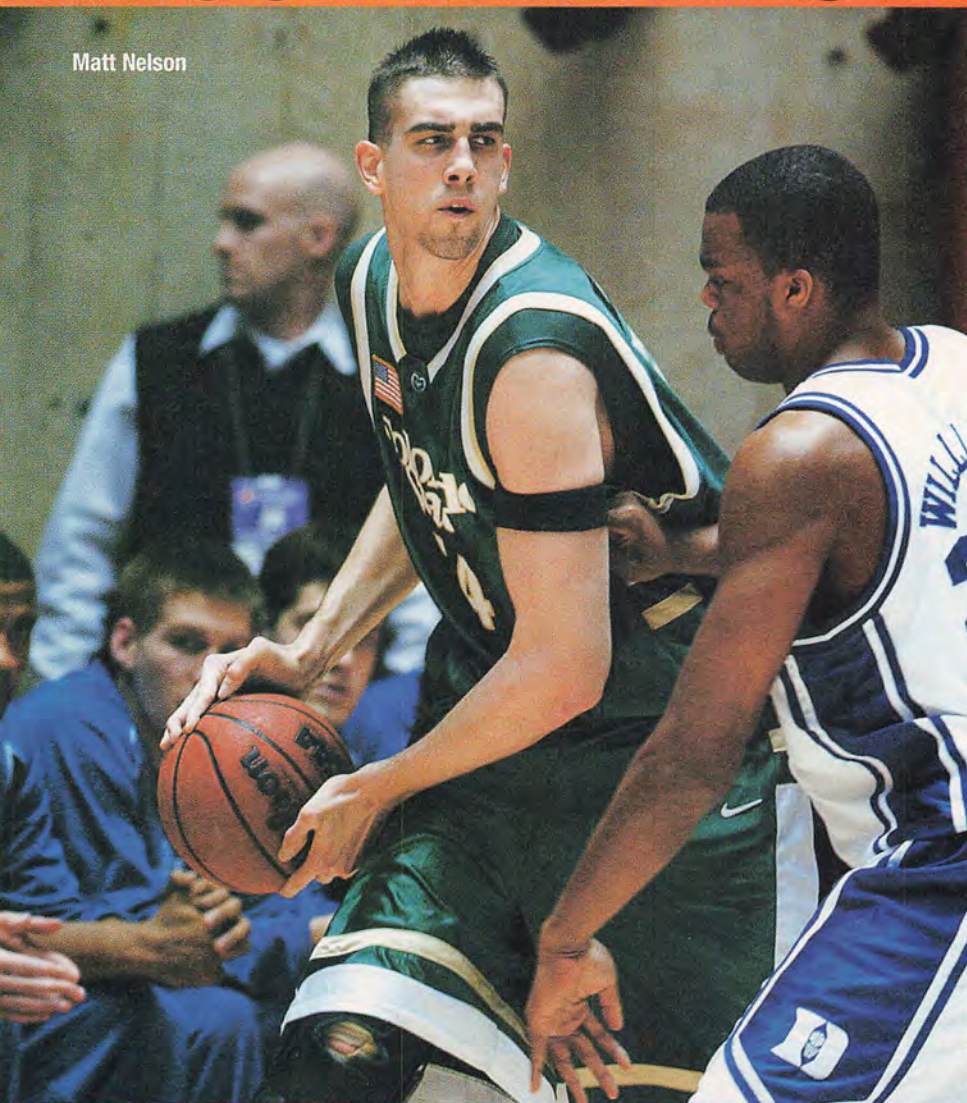
WHAT WE LIKE: Danny Nee needed his first two seasons to erase the bad habits that accumulated during Darelle Porter's tenure. The Dukes now are far more disciplined and organized—and committed to defense. Nee was the perfect tonic for the ailing Duquesne program. With four starters returning and a transfer-heavy group of newcomers, it's time for the Dukes to start winning. A trio of senior starters gives the program promise. Jimmy Tricco is one of the league's top five 3-point shooters, and Elijah Palmer proved to be a capable rebounder. Center Ron Dokes had some shining moments last season; he must be more reliable. Bryant McAllister returns at the point after a year of learning on the job, but he'll be pushed by junior college transfer Martin Osinami, who should take better care of the ball than McAllister did last season.

WHAT SCARES US: Even with Dokes and Palmer, the Dukes are thin inside. Nee hopes Jon Pawlak, who redshirted last year after making marginal contributions as a freshman and sophomore, has improved. Duquesne must get a solid contribution from at least one of two raw freshmen, Kieron Achara and Sean McKeon. The Dukes also must devote considerable energy to cutting down on turnovers. And it would help considerably if the new big guys adopted a boards-first, scoring-later mentality.

X-FACTOR: Tricco clearly is the team's best returning player, and his 3-point shooting is a potent weapon. But Tricco, a senior, needs to become more of a full-fledged offensive force. All but 31 of his 107 field goals last season came from behind the arc, and he shot a measly 36 free throws. He must look for his shot off the dribble more this season and put pressure on opponents rather than simply standing locked and loaded in 3-point land.

MOUNTAIN WEST

Matt Nelson



AUGUST MILLER / TSN

It will be no surprise if the league sends three to the NCAAs

For the second year in a row, three Mountain West Conference teams made it into the NCAA Tournament, but it happened with a couple of surprises. Instead of Wyoming, Brigham Young got to attend the Big Dance. UNLV was on the verge of joining Utah and BYU in the field of 65 until Brian Greene's jump shot gave Colorado State the Mountain West tournament title and the league's automatic bid.

Wyoming, UNLV and San Diego State played in the NIT, so three-fourths of the league participated in postseason play last spring. That and the stability that comes with all eight coaches returning for this season have commissioner Craig Thompson smiling.

He could be smiling again come March. In fact, this could be the best season yet for the conference, which is entering its fifth season. Six of the eight teams can legitimately claim they are contenders for NCAA Tournament berths.

BYU and Utah clearly are the teams to beat. The Cougars are loaded and deep. They're also big up front with 6-11 Rafael Araujo and 6-9 Jared Jensen, and they've added 6-8 Garner Meads. Coach Steve Cleveland's patience in stockpiling players the last three years is about to pay off.

The Utes got their hands caught in the NCAA's cookie jar over the summer and were hit with three years of probation. However, the team is eligible for postseason play, and you can bet coach Rick Majerus will have plenty of incentive to get Utah back to the NCAA Tournament. He has two of the best players in the league in big man Tim Frost and shooting guard Nick Jacobson, and his young players were coming on at the end of last season.

As for which other teams could find their way to the NCAAs and extend the league's streak of three tournament teams, Colorado State might have a leg up on UNLV.

The conference tournament will be

2002-03 team statistics

Offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
UNLV	32	70.7	70.7	36.1	33.1	14.4	8.7	3.3	14.7	75.3
Colorado State	33	69.7	69.7	36.1	35.6	15.6	5.4	4.5	16.8	74.2
San Diego State	30	67.8	67.8	35.6	35.0	14.4	6.3	2.8	16.8	74.2
Wyoming	32	70.2	70.2	35.1	36.4	13.4	5.9	3.0	13.7	73.2
BYU	32	75.5	75.5	37.5	35.4	13.4	6.9	2.6	13.6	71.8
New Mexico	28	73.2	73.2	36.2	32.5	12.1	5.7	2.7	11.8	70.9
Utah	33	71.1	71.1	38.1	33.1	12.9	4.9	3.8	12.9	66.4
Air Force	28	65.1	65.1	37.6	21.0	13.0	6.0	1.8	11.4	57.3

Defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Air Force	28	45.5	38.2	71.1	29.8	9.1	5.5	1.6	13.0	57.0
Utah	33	41.3	32.0	69.6	30.7	10.2	5.9	2.4	12.8	60.3
BYU	32	40.6	30.8	71.4	31.0	10.7	5.4	2.4	14.5	63.5
San Diego State	30	44.7	36.4	72.6	30.1	14.5	7.5	3.3	14.1	69.6
Wyoming	32	44.9	38.2	71.8	31.8	13.4	6.6	3.7	12.6	70.8
UNLV	32	46.0	31.9	70.9	34.2	13.9	5.6	2.5	17.0	71.0
Colorado State	33	43.5	33.7	69.5	31.2	12.8	9.2	3.2	12.6	71.6
New Mexico	28	47.7	35.5	73.2	35.2	15.7	5.8	2.8	12.9	73.2

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Utah	11	3	25	8
BYU	11	3	23	9
Wyoming	8	6	21	11
UNLV	8	6	21	11
San Diego State	6	8	16	14
Colorado State	5	9	19	14
New Mexico	4	10	10	18
Air Force	3	11	12	16

played at the Pepsi Center in Denver, and the Rams are more acclimated to playing in the thin air. If it comes down to three wins in three days to lock up the league's automatic bid, Colorado State might be the team to do it. It will be banking on a healthy Matt Nelson and three recruits from Texas.

Coach Charlie Spoonhour will have a little more depth than his first two seasons at UNLV, and the overall talent level may be better despite the loss of Marcus Banks and Dalron Johnson. The Rebels are not that far behind BYU and Utah.

San Diego State hoped to be in the mix. But with star forward Evan Burns bounced from the program over the summer for academic reasons, concern over the health of guard Travis Hanour and center Chris Manker and the loss of some key recruits to other schools, the Aztecs will be hard-pressed to return to postseason play.

Ultimately, the mandate for the Mountain West remains the same since its inception: Play good teams and start beating them, especially on the road. Do that, and the selection committee will reward the league come March.

ASCENDING: Colorado State. The Rams were the pick here last season, and they proved worthy by winning the conference postseason tournament. They're the pick this time, too. The confidence gained from that victorious weekend in mid-March at Las Vegas, coupled with a powerful recruiting class, makes coach Dale Layer's team one to keep a close eye on.

DESCENDING: Wyoming. The Cowboys might have the best point guard in the league in junior Jay Straight, but the loss of Marcus Bailey, Donta Richardson and Uche Nsonwu-Amadi, not to mention Chris McMillian, will be hard to overcome. Coach Steve McClain is an excellent recruiter, but this is a daunting task.

PLAYERS ON THE RISE:

1. Matt Nelson, C, Colorado State.

A 7-foot junior, Nelson has a chance to be the best player in the league, if he can stay healthy. When he's right, few can contain Nelson, and it gives the Rams offensive balance. But Nelson has had foot and knee injuries his first two seasons, so he will have to shake the fragile tag.

2. Tim Drisdorn, G, Utah. He was slow to adjust to Division I. But by the end of the season, Drisdorn, now a sophomore, was running the offense the way Majerus wants, and he was playing with tremendous confidence. With his natural talent and a year's experience, Drisdorn should blossom into one of the conference's better players.

3. Tim Keller, G, Air Force. It's hard to be a scorer in coach Joe Scott's Princeton-style system. But Keller managed to be one. Yes, he still had to share the ball, but Keller hit a lot of big shots for the Falcons last year. He also passes and defends well; look for his role to expand.

TSN

Steve Carp covers college basketball for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

RANKING THE 2003 RECRUITING CLASSES

By Mike Sullivan, Rivals.com

- 1. UNLV.** Jerel Blasingame is the top catch and should step into Marcus Banks' vacancy at the point.
- 2. Utah.** Andrew Bogut shined at Junior World Championships; 6-9 Jonas Langvald adds size.
- 3. Colorado State.** Phillip Thomasson and Stephen Verwers should play immediately on the front line.
- 4. Wyoming.** The team found two big scorers in junior college guards Dion Sherrell and Tim Henry.
- 5. New Mexico.** Justin Benson will provide toughness in the paint; Sean Phaler is a sharp-shooter.
- 6. BYU.** Mike Hall is a good defender and could challenge for the starting job at point guard.
- 7. San Diego State.** Marcus Slaughter will pick up the minutes the dismissed Evan Burns leaves behind.
- 8. Air Force.** The quality of freshmen is higher this year; guard Jacob Burttschi leads the pack.

Best bets

1. With the league moving its postseason tournament from Las Vegas to Denver, don't be surprised if Colorado State repeats as tourney champion. The Rams will have a lot of home support.

In addition, teams such as Colorado State, Wyoming and Utah have an edge over UNLV and San Diego State because they are acclimated to higher altitude.

2. This will be a great season for freshmen in the Mountain West. There are at least four legitimate candidates for honors as

freshman of the year: Utah's Andrew Bogut, Colorado State's Phillip Thomasson, San Diego State's Marcus Slaughter and BYU's Austin Ainge. Not far behind is UNLV's Michael Umeh, who can play both backcourt positions.

3. The league has coaching stability—all eight return—but the same can't be said for their bosses. UNLV, San Diego State, Wyoming and Colorado State searched for new athletic directors during the summer. That's not a good situation for coaches who are trying to raise money and remain competitive.

Predictions

1. BYU*
2. Utah*
3. UNLV
4. Colorado State
5. Wyoming
6. San Diego State

7. New Mexico
 8. Air Force
- *NCAA Tournament pick

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jay Straight, Wyoming	5-11	165	Jr.
G/F	Nick Jacobson, Utah	6-4	200	Jr.
C	Matt Nelson, Colorado State	7-0	245	Sr.
C	Rafael Araujo, BYU	6-11	265	Sr.
F/C	Tim Frost, Utah	6-10	236	Sr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Wesley Stokes, San Diego St.	6-0	160	Jr.
G	Demetrius Hunter, UNLV	6-2	210	Sr.
G/F	Mark Bigelow, BYU	6-7	190	Sr.
G	Tim Keller, Air Force	6-3	180	Jr.
F	Joel Gerlach, Air Force	6-6	195	Sr.

Player spotlight

Player of the year

Rafael Araujo

He scores. He rebounds. He defends. He's strong. He's tough. He will be an integral part of the Cougars' attack. He plays with enthusiasm, and he got better as last season went on. The experience of playing at the Division I level will help his game immensely, and he'll have a better supporting cast around him than last year. During the offseason, Araujo also spent time at the Pete Newell Big Man Camp, where he worked on developing his outside shooting. That's the last thing BYU opponents need to see.



Newcomer of the year

Andrew Bogut, F/C, Utah

He was supposed to play for the Utes last season, but he got tangled up in an academic web and couldn't free himself in time to come to the United States. Apparently, he was worth the wait. He led the Aussies to the title and earned MVP honors at the Junior World Championships in July in Greece. He's 6-9, 205, and will fit in nicely in coach Rick Majerus' system and should be a nice complement to senior Tim Frost.

Most underrated

Joe Ries, F, Wyoming

A 6-8 senior, Ries was reliable, starting all 32 games for the Cowboys and finishing second on the team in rebounding. He also had seven double-figure scoring games even though he was hardly the first or second option. He's a better-than-average defender who isn't afraid to do the dirty work.

1. BYU

WHAT WE LIKE: Coach Steve Cleveland might have the deepest team in the league, and that should serve the Cougars well come March. He has a big go-to guy in senior Rafael Araujo and a bona fide scorer in Mark Bigelow. The team finished strong last year, securing an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. Cleveland has been stockpiling talent since he got to BYU six years ago, and this might be the year it pays off. Austin Ainge, son of former BYU player Danny Ainge, will challenge Kevin Woodberry for the starting point guard spot, and Garner Meads is coming off his church mission and will provide support up front for Araujo. Araujo and Jared Jensen are already the toughest inside duo in the league, and Meads will only add to that muscle. Jake Shoff and Dan Howard add more depth to the frontcourt, and Ricky Bower is versatile in the backcourt.

WHAT SCARES US: The Cougars don't have a replacement for Travis Hansen's athletic ability, basketball acumen and cockiness. Ainge might develop into that kind of player, but BYU will miss that element until he does. Hansen was a good scorer, and he hated to lose—his competitiveness was infectious. Who will fill that leadership role? There is potential for a controversy between Woodberry and Ainge. Woodberry made strides in the second half last season, and he won't relinquish his job without a fight.

X-FACTOR: There are a lot of new faces, and BYU might need time for the players who have been on church missions to shake off the rust. Wisely, Cleveland scheduled a basketball tour to Australia for the Cougars in August to help accelerate the process. Getting the jump on the season might be the thing BYU needs to smooth the rough edges.

Cougars data

Coach: Steve Cleveland (108-78, 6 years; NCAA Tournament 0-2).
Assistant coaches: Dave Rose (6 years), Andy Toolson (2), John Wardenburg (2).
2002-03 record: 23-9. MWC:

11-3/T1st. Lost to Connecticut in NCAA South first round.
Last regular-season title: 2001 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.
Site: Provo, Utah.
Home court: Marriott Center (22,700).
Website: www.byucougars.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
13	G	Austin Ainge	6-1/175	Fr.	Strong floor leader redshirted last year.					
55	C	Rafael Araujo*	6-11/265	Sr.	12.0	8.9	1.2	55.8	64.2	27.3
3	F	Mark Bigelow*	6-7/190	Sr.	13.9	3.7	2.3	43.7	83.0	41.7
14	G	Ricky Bower	6-4/185	Sr.	5.2	1.4	1.3	44.4	87.5	43.9
43	C	Derek Dawes	6-11/255	So.	Played in 2001; returning from church mission.					
8	G	Mike Hall	6-3/205	Jr.	JC transfer led team to No. 3 national finish.					
40	C	Dan Howard	7-0/225	Sr.	1.3	0.9	0.1	50.0	41.7	—
52	F	Jared Jensen*	6-9/245	Jr.	7.5	3.3	0.4	57.4	80.2	—
4	G	Luis Lemes	6-3/175	Sr.	1.7	0.9	0.4	39.5	66.7	33.3
41	F	Garner Meads	6-8/215	Fr.	Redshirted in 2001; back after church mission.					
10	G	Terry Nashif	5-10/165	Jr.	2.2	1.6	2.1	34.4	73.9	38.5
12	G	Marc Roberts	6-3/205	Jr.	1.7	1.1	0.3	27.3	72.2	0.0
2	G	Michael Rose	6-1/180	Fr.	Combo guard can shoot the 3.					
5	F	Jake Shoff	6-9/265	Sr.	2.6	3.0	0.3	60.9	63.6	0.0
23	G	Kevin Woodberry*	6-0/170	Sr.	6.3	2.2	2.5	35.4	60.3	31.9

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Travis Hansen*	6-6/210	16.8	4.8	2.4	44.1	79.9	34.0

Schedule

N21 Southern Utah	D20 Weber State	J24 at Air Force	F23 Air Force
N26 at California	D23 at Utah State	J26 at New Mexico	M1 Utah
N29 Utah Valley State	D29-30 Cable Car Class.**	J31 at Utah	M6 at UNLV
D29 at Boise State	J2 Saint Mary's	F7 UNLV	*at Salt Lake City
D6 Oklahoma State*	J7 at N.C. State	F9 San Diego State	**at Santa Clara, Calif.
D10 Western Oregon	J12 at San Diego State	F14 at Wyoming	
D13 USC	J17 Colorado State	F16 at Colorado State	
	J19 Wyoming	F21 New Mexico	

2. Utah

WHAT WE LIKE: The Utes have a solid lineup and depth, too. Nick Jacobson is one of the top shooting guards in the league, and Tim Drisdom should flourish after starting every game at point guard as a freshman. Their experience can't be discounted in a league in which just about every team has new faces in the backcourt. Up front, Tim Frost is one of the best players in the league. Bryant Markson and Richard Chaney got some valuable experience as freshmen last season and at times played brilliantly. But it's the newcomers who make Utah a team to fear. Freshmen big men Andrew Bogut from Australia, Jonas Langvad from Denmark and Stefan Zimmerman from Utah all figure to contribute right away.

WHAT SCARES US: The Utes are still a relatively young team. Frost and Jacobson are the only seniors, and coach Rick Majerus doesn't have a lot of patience with young players who make mistakes. As much progress as Drisdom made at the point last year, he's still only a sophomore and has a lot to learn. Which is why the departure of Marc Jackson raises a red flag. Jackson was arguably the best player in the league during the first half of conference play. But after leaving the program for the second time in three years, there's a concern about depth at point guard. If Drisdom gets hurt or struggles, where does Majerus turn?

X-FACTOR: When Utah signed Langvad in the spring, Majerus said he was a cross between Keith Van Horn and Hanno Mottola, meaning he had athletic ability and the ability to play inside and outside. Someone that versatile could give the Utes a different look and open the floor for others. If he's as good as Van Horn or Mottola, Majerus will be ecstatic.

Utes data

Coach: Rick Majerus (308-90, 14 years; 407-142 overall, 19 years; NCAA Tournament 18-11).
Assistant coaches: Kerry Rupp (2 years), Eric Jackson (1).
2002-03 record: 25-8. MWC:
 11-3/T1st. Lost to Kentucky in NCAA

Midwest second round.
Last regular-season title: 2003.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Salt Lake City.
Home court: Huntsman Center (15,000).
Website: www.utahutes.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
4	F/C	Andrew Bogut	6-10/220	Fr.	Can run the floor, shoot; must add strength.					
13	G/F	Richard Chaney	6-4/186	So.	5.4	3.5	0.8	43.7	46.5	33.3
11	G	Tim Drisdom*	6-3/203	So.	4.6	3.1	3.1	40.9	81.0	42.4
54	C/F	Tim Frost*	6-10/236	Sr.	12.8	4.9	1.0	48.1	72.6	43.3
5	F	Justin Hawkins	6-5/215	Fr.	Can play both wing positions.					
15	G/F	Nick Jacobson*	6-4/200	Sr.	13.3	2.8	0.9	42.7	83.5	42.3
30	C	Chris Jackson	6-11/242	So.	2.1	1.8	0.3	55.6	46.7	50.0
51	F	Jonas Langvad	6-9/207	Fr.	Has nice potential; good jumper and shooter.					
20	F	Bryant Markson	6-6/182	So.	3.7	2.2	0.7	43.8	65.8	23.5
2	G	Josh Olsen	6-1/180	Fr.	Solid defender can play both guard spots.					
3	G	Ryan Werch	6-2/185	Fr.	Terrific athlete and excellent outside shooter.					
52	C	Stefan Zimmerman	6-10/240	Fr.	Must work on strength and quickness.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G/F	Trace Caton*	6-5/214	4.8	2.5	1.9	36.6	80.6	32.3
G	Marc Jackson	6-1/185	9.4	2.2	2.8	49.6	86.1	44.6
F	Britton Johnsen*	6-9/213	11.6	6.7	2.0	47.7	53.1	25.8

Schedule

N17-28 Preseason NIT	D19 CS Northridge	J17 Wyoming	F14 at Colorado State
N23 at Stony Brook	D23 at Colorado	J19 Colorado State	F16 at Wyoming
D23 Utah State	D29 Southern Utah	J24 at New Mexico	F21 Air Force
D6 San Diego	J3 at Weber State	J26 at Air Force	F23 New Mexico
D13 Savannah State	J5 Pepperdine	J31 BYU	M1 at BYU
D16 at LSU	J7 Whitworth	F7 San Diego State	M6 at San Diego State
	J12 at UNLV	F9 UNLV	

3. UNLV

WHAT WE LIKE: In his two years as coach of the Rebels, Charlie Spoonhour's team has led the Mountain West in scoring, averaging nearly 77 points a game. In Vegas, "Spoonball" doesn't translate to "Slowball," and the Rebels figure to be even more uptempo this season. They added junior college recruit Jerel Blasingame, and, Marquette transfer Odaty Blankson might be the best rebounding forward in the league. Once center J.K. Edwards got into shape, he was one of the league's top big men despite giving away a couple of inches to almost every opponent he faced. Forward James Peters played regular minutes late in the season and had several big games. The Rebels also get the return of redshirt Louis Amundson, who's not afraid to get his hands dirty in the paint.

WHAT SCARES US: Replacing 60 percent of your scoring is not an easy task, and filling the void left by the departure of seniors Marcus Banks, Dalron Johnson and Jermaine Lewis will not be easy. Demetrius Hunter would be the likely candidate to pick up some of the slack, but he's coming off surgery to repair his Achilles' tendon. If he's healthy, Hunter eases much of the burden. Otherwise, it will be up to the newcomers to come through.

X-FACTOR: Last season, chemistry was a concern with the Rebels. Banks became the dominant player, and that seemed to have a negative effect on Johnson's game. Both are gone, as are dissatisfied reserves Omari Pearson and Ernest Turner. Blasingame and Beck played together at Los Angeles City College, where they won the California junior college title. Spoonhour recruited as much for attitude as he did for talent this season, and if he plays his hunches right, it could pay big dividends in March.

Rebels data

Coach: Charlie Spoonhour (42-22, 2 years; 361-193 overall, 18 years; NCAA Tournament 3-8).

Assistant coaches: Deane Martin (2 years), Jay Spoonhour (2), Dave Rice (1st).

2002-03 record: 21-11. MWC:

8-6/T3rd. Lost to Hawaii in NIT first round.

Last regular-season title: 2000 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Las Vegas.

Home court: Thomas & Mack Center (18,500).

Website: www.unlvrebels.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
22	F	Louis Amundson	6-8/205	So.	Medical redshirt (thumb) last season.					
	G/F	Romel Beck	6-7/205	Jr.	Teammate of Blasingame's at L.A. JC.					
0	F	Odaty Blankson	6-7/225	Jr.	Averaged 7.7 ppg in two years at Marquette.					
	G	Jerel Blasingame	5-10/170	Jr.	MVP of 2003 California JC tournament.					
5	C	J.K. Edwards*	6-8/250	Sr.	9.1	6.3	0.9	56.4	56.6	—
	G/F	Andy Hannan	6-6/210	Jr.	Was H.S. teammate of ex-BC star Troy Bell.					
1	G	Demetrius Hunter*	6-2/210	Sr.	7.2	1.5	1.1	41.7	55.0	38.5
20	G	Jon Osborne	6-1/170	Fr.	Redshirted last season.					
11	F	James Peters	6-8/215	Sr.	6.4	3.4	0.8	53.2	51.4	33.3
	G	Michael Umeh	6-2/185	Fr.	Was a top player in Houston H.S. ranks.					
	G	John Winston	6-3/195	Fr.	Averaged 16.0 ppg, 11.0 rpg as H.S. senior.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Marcus Banks*	6-1/195	20.3	3.4	5.5	51.4	75.7	33.6
F	Dalron Johnson*	6-10/215	15.5	6.3	2.2	45.7	87.1	42.7
G	Jermaine Lewis*	6-4/200	9.5	5.0	2.2	39.7	75.3	36.6

Schedule

Schedule		D13	at Stanford	J17	at San Diego State	F15	at Missouri
N21	Delaware State	D18	Northwestern Arizona	J24	at Wyoming	F17	San Diego State
N24	Nevada	D20	Auburn	J26	at Colorado State	F21	Colorado State
N26	Western Illinois	D28	Bradley	J31	New Mexico	F23	Wyoming
N29	California	D30	Montana	F2	Air Force	F28	at Air Force
D3	at USC	J7	Occidental	F7	at BYU	M1	at New Mexico
D6	at Loyola Marymount	J12	Utah	F9	at Utah	M6	BYU

4. Colorado State

WHAT WE LIKE: In 7-foot Matt Nelson, the Rams have one of the league's top players who's a force inside. He also has a young and talented supporting cast in guard Micheal Morris, who was second in the conference in blocked shots and third in assists as a freshman; junior forward Matt Williams; and sophomore swingman Shelton Johnson. In addition, coach Dale Layer had a standout recruiting class anchored by Phillip Thomasson, who was on the 2003 U.S. Global Games Select team. The Rams were playing great ball at the end of last season, beating UNLV in the Mountain West tournament title game and nearly upsetting Duke in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Layer was given a five-year extension over the summer, which shows there's a commitment to the program.

WHAT SCARES US: Colorado State is a young team with two seniors, forward Ronnie Clark and guard Derrick Stevens. The Rams will sorely miss Brian Greene's leadership. Colorado State also ranked last in the conference in turnover margin last season, and that trend might continue until the youngsters get some seasoning. Nelson's history of injuries is the biggest worry. As a freshman, it was a foot. Last year, it was a knee. If he gets hurt again and misses a substantial length of time, the Rams' postseason hopes will disappear.

X-FACTOR: The 3-point field goal is a big part of the Rams' makeup, and losing Andy Birley gives someone a chance to take a lot of shots. Stevens attempted the second-most 3-pointers last season, and if he can get enough minutes, he might be able to pick up some of the slack. Thomasson, who figures to be a regular, is another outside threat.

Rams data

Coach: Dale Layer (46-45, 3 years; NCAA Tournament record 0-1).

Assistant coaches: Buzz Williams (4 years), Bill Peterson (3), Pat Eberhart (2).

2002-03 record: 19-14. MWC: 5-9/6th. Lost to Duke in NCAA West

first round.

Last regular-season title: 1990 (WAC).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Fort Collins, Colo.

Home court: Moby Arena (8,745).

Website: www.csurams.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
	G	Dwight Boatner	5-11/170	Fr.	Averaged 20.5 ppg, 4.5 rpg as H.S. senior.					
20	F	Ronnie Clark*	6-5/210	Sr.	10.6	4.5	1.0	55.1	68.9	0.0
24	C	Stuart Creason	7-0/250	Fr.	Has time to learn playing behind Nelson.					
22	G/F	Shelton Johnson	6-3/205	So.	2.6	2.5	0.8	44.9	47.8	26.3
	G	Brian Lohrey	6-1/185	Jr.	0.4	0.3	0.1	25.0	33.3	0.0
32	G	Micheal Morris*	6-4/195	So.	5.9	2.8	3.7	41.7	71.8	34.6
54	C	Matt Nelson*	7-0/245	Jr.	17.0	5.6	1.2	64.3	68.4	—
	G	Jon Rakiecki	6-3/195	Jr.	Played only four games; had ankle surgery.					
	G	Kyle Ramstetter	6-1/185	Jr.	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
13	G	Freddy Robinson	6-5/210	So.	1.3	1.5	0.7	20.0	66.7	0.0
1	G	Derrick Stevens	5-11/180	Sr.	2.5	1.3	1.1	25.0	56.3	23.2
11	F	Phillip Thomasson	6-7/215	Fr.	Could have an immediate impact.					
34	F	Stephen Verwers	6-10/225	Fr.	Played with a team of home-schooled students.					
42	F	Matt Williams	6-6/215	Jr.	7.2	3.9	1.2	53.6	67.7	—

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Andy Birley*	6-4/190	10.8	2.3	3.1	45.7	73.2	42.3
F	Brian Greene*	6-8/225	13.9	6.2	2.3	50.4	81.4	44.4

Schedule

D13	at Denver	J17	at BYU	F14	Utah
N22	BYU-Hawaii	D20	at Stetson	J19	at Utah
N29	at Drake	D22	at South Florida	J24	San Diego State
D1	at Auburn	D30	Purdue	J26	UNLV
D4	Texas Southern	J3	Pepperdine*	J31	Wyoming
D6	Gardner-Webb	J8	Northern Colorado	F7	at New Mexico
D10	Colorado	J12	Air Force	F9	at Air Force
					*at Denver

5. Wyoming

WHAT WE LIKE: In Jay Straight, Wyoming has the most experienced point guard in the league. He'll be starting for the third straight season, and he has developed into a very good player in coach Steve McClain's system. He has learned how to use his speed and quickness effectively, and he understands the importance of getting his teammates involved. He also can score, and he may be counted on for more points this season. The same could be said for Joe Ries, the Cowboys' workmanlike power forward who runs the floor well and is a strong finisher inside. Senior David Rottinghaus has gained valuable experience the last two seasons, and he is dependable and versatile. McClain continued to hit the junior colleges in recruiting, and Dion Sherrell, a 6-3 guard out of Detroit, should make an immediate impact.

WHAT SCARES US: The Cowboys lost three key players in Marcus Bailey, Uche Nsonwu-Amadi and Donta Richardson. It will be virtually impossible to replace all three with similar quality, so it means the returning players will have to raise their collective games a notch. Straight is going to find competition at every turn because most teams in the league have improved at the point. Wyoming doesn't appear very deep this time around, and the Cowboys never recovered from Bailey's December knee injury, which ended his career. Anything of a similar ilk this season could mean disaster.

X-FACTOR: Can the Cowboys play good defense? They may have to to win games. Two years ago, Wyoming led the league in field-goal percentage defense, but the team was middle of the pack last season. Nsonwu-Amadi isn't in the middle to block and alter shots, but the team defense figures to be stout once again.

Cowboys data

Coach: Steve McClain (100-52, 5 years; NCAA Tournament 1-1).
Assistant coaches: John Adams (5 years) Leroy Washington (3), Silvey Dominguez (1st).

2002-03 record: 21-11. MWC: 8-6/3rd. Lost to North Carolina in NIT

second round.

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Laramie, Wyo.

Home court: Arena Auditorium (15,028).

Website: www.wyomingathletics.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
23	G	David Adams	6-2/185	Sr.	5.8	2.0	1.1	36.5	80.0	37.0
		C Jarrod Boswell	7-0/265	Fr.	Two Pac-10 schools sought Calif. big man.					
31	F	Mory Correa	6-9/210	Fr.	3.4	2.9	0.4	65.1	44.4	—
13	C	Alex Dunn	6-10/220	Jr.	3.7	2.7	0.2	60.7	58.0	—
		G/F Tim Henry	6-5/185	So.	Served two-year Mormon mission after H.S.					
00	F	Omoniyei Makun	6-8/215	Sr.	1.6	2.5	0.2	40.5	60.9	0.0
25	F	Joe Ries*	6-8/225	Sr.	7.0	4.2	1.3	50.0	73.7	0.0
20	F	David Rottinghaus*	6-5/195	Sr.	6.0	2.6	1.7	49.7	50.0	34.4
		G Dion Sherrell	6-3/210	Jr.	JC transfer slowed by broken toe in '02-03.					
3	G	Jay Straight*	5-11/165	Jr.	10.5	2.7	3.1	35.9	75.5	34.6
		G Mikel Watson	6-1/168	Fr.	Like Boswell, an early recruit from Calif.					
32	C	Ryan Wildenborg	6-11/250	Sr.	1.3	1.3	0.0	55.0	46.7	—

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Marcus Bailey	6-5/190	15.6	4.3	2.6	40.9	79.2	33.3
C	Uche Nsonwu-Amadi*	6-10/260	14.3	9.6	1.3	52.9	64.1	—
G	Donta Richardson*	6-2/170	18.1	3.3	2.4	43.7	80.8	37.6

Schedule

N22 Southern Illinois	D17 Tennessee State	J19 at BYU	F21 at San Diego State
N25 Norfolk State	D20 Winthrop	J24 UNLV	F23 at UNLV
N29 Middle Tenn.	D27 Colorado-Co. Springs	J26 San Diego State	F28 Colorado State
D3 at Kansas State	J3 Dayton	J31 at Colorado State	M6 Air Force
D6 Washington	J6 at Denver	F7 at Air Force	*at Casper, Wyo.
D9 at California	J8 at Middle Tenn.	F9 at New Mexico	
D13 Montana State*	J12 New Mexico	F14 BYU	
	J17 at Utah	F16 Utah	

6. San Diego State

WHAT WE LIKE: The Aztecs are a potentially athletic team. With point guard Wesley Stokes having transferred from Missouri and redshirt Chris Walton ready to return after sitting out because of an injury, San Diego State should be able to play a more up-tempo style. Steve Fisher got one of the best high school forwards in California in freshman Marcus Slaughter. Senior Aerick Sanders is an underrated rebounder and a solid inside scorer. Both can run and jump, and they will play a lot, partially because of Evan Burns' departure.

WHAT SCARES US: No Burns and all those injuries. Burns was a question mark anyway coming off of major knee surgery in the spring. But now that Fisher has dismissed him from the team for academic reasons, the Aztecs are going to have to quickly reshape their pecking order. It could mean more offensive responsibility for Stokes. Don't forget, they also have to replace Tony Bland's scoring and Mike Mackell's inside presence. Travis Hanour and Chris Manker had knee surgeries in the offseason. If they're not healthy and able to provide the team with regular playing time, it really puts a crimp in San Diego State's hopes. Walton hasn't played in a year, and no one knows how much of his game he might have lost.

X-FACTOR: This is not a particularly large team, so San Diego State will have to rely on quickness to win games. The Aztecs have one player over 6-8—Manker, who's 7 feet and comes off the bench. So rebounding is going to be a big concern for Fisher. Sanders is the team's leading returning rebounder, but he's going to need some help from Slaughter and Walton if San Diego State hopes to contend for a postseason spot.

Aztecs data

Coach: Steve Fisher (56-63, 4 years; 240-145 overall, 12 years; NCAA Tournament 20-7; won NCAA title with Michigan in 1989).

Assistant coaches: Brian Dutcher (4 years), Marvin Menzies (4), Gregg Gottlieb (1).

2002-03 record: 16-14. MWC: 6-8/5th. Lost to Texas Tech in NIT second round.

Last regular-season title: 1978 (tie, Pacific Coast Athletic Association).

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: San Diego.

Home court: Cox Arena (12,414).

Website: www.goaztecs.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
20	F	Trimaime Davis	6-8/216	So.	1.5	1.1	0.0	61.5	42.9	—
5	G	Travis Hanour	6-7/200	Jr.	3.1	3.1	1.0	29.0	64.3	28.9
0	G	Tommy Johnson	6-4/190	Jr.	5.6	2.6	1.8	39.7	72.4	34.8
33	C	Chris Manker	7-0/203	Jr.	2.9	1.2	0.2	39.7	33.3	35.6
34	F	Aerick Sanders*	6-8/196	Sr.	6.1	7.6	1.2	49.3	76.5	—
15	G	John Sharper	6-1/186	So.	1.9	0.8	0.6	42.1	60.0	43.8
11	G	Steve Sir	6-6/201	So.	5.5	1.1	0.9	40.5	85.0	40.4
42	F	Marcus Slaughter	6-8/185	Fr.	A power forward who can shoot the 3.					
2	G	Wesley Stokes	6-0/160	Jr.	Big things expected from Mo. transfer.					
3	F	Chris Walton	6-9/220	Jr.	Not nearly as skilled as brother Luke.					
32	G	Ben Wardrop	6-3/190	Sr.	0.9	0.0	0.4	50.0	—	40.0

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Tony Bland*	6-5/192	16.4	3.5	3.4	45.9	66.1	27.8
F	Evan Burns*	6-8/220	9.2	5.1	1.1	49.2	76.7	29.8
C	Mike Mackell*	6-9/241	14.4	4.6	0.7	54.5	65.9	—
G	Deandre Moore*	5-10/195	8.3	3.7	4.1	41.8	66.0	38.3

Schedule

N21 Long Beach State	D18 Cal Poly	J12 BYU	F9 at BYU
N24-26 Maui Invitational	D20 E. Washington	J17 UNLV	F17 at UNLV
N30 Troy State	D22 at Arizona	J24 at Colorado State	F21 Wyoming
D3 at San Diego	D27 Washington	J26 at Wyoming	F23 Colorado State
D6 San Diego	D31 Portland	J31 Air Force	F28 at New Mexico
D13 at Texas Tech	J3 Iowa State	F2 New Mexico	M1 at Air Force
	J6 at Saint Mary's	F7 at Utah	M6 Utah

7. New Mexico

WHAT WE LIKE: Despite losing Senque Carey to a likely career-ending spinal injury early last season, the Lobos never gave up and played hard every game. In Mark Walters, the Lobos have a talented player who can score and rebound. He has a bright future—assuming he bounces back from knee surgery after tearing his left ACL in a pickup game in May. The team's two seniors, Javin Tindall and Ryan Ashcraft, took their lumps at times last season, but they showed promise. Tindall led the team in 3-point percentage and assists while playing the point. Ashcraft is expected to become a more consistent scorer in a balanced attack. When Bradley transfer Danny Granger becomes eligible in December, New Mexico will get a big boost in scoring and rebounding.

WHAT SCARES US: Losing the nation's leading scorer, Ruben Douglas, will have a big impact on the offense. Players who never got to touch the ball much will find themselves with shot opportunities, and they'll need to make the most of them. Will Walters be able to recover from his knee surgery and remain an effective player? Can the Lobos hold on until Granger becomes eligible? Plus, the Lobos were a seventh-place team with Douglas. How will they improve without him? The team got terrible news in late August with the apparent suicide of sophomore Billy Feeney, a 6-10 transfer from Portland State. He was expected to give the Lobos minutes at power forward and center.

X-FACTOR: It takes a while for a team to get comfortable with a new coach, and New Mexico is still a team in transition entering Ritchie McKay's second season. It also might take McKay a while to get comfortable with his players—there are 10 additions to the roster this season. However, the Lobos have four returning starters. That should help from a chemistry standpoint.

Lobos data

Coach: Ritchie McKay (10-18, 1 year; 93-107 overall, 7 years).
Assistant coaches: Brad Soucie (1 year), Scott Didrickson (1), Duane Broussard (1).
2002-03 record: 10-18. MWC:

4-10/7th.

Last regular-season title: 1994 (WAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Albuquerque, N.M.
Home court: The Pit/Bob King Court (18,018).
Website: www.golobos.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
12	G	Ryan Ashcraft*	6-2/175	Sr.	3.4	1.9	2.2	30.9	93.8	26.6
25	F	Justin Benson	6-8/240	Fr.	Expected to help inside game right away.					
13	C	David Chiotti*	6-9/250	So.	3.9	4.0	0.8	54.9	51.3	—
2	G	Troy DeVries	6-2/190	Jr.	Transfer eligible after fall semester.					
5	G	Collins Ferris	6-1/185	Jr.	Walk-on played two years of JC ball.					
33	F	Danny Granger	6-8/215	Jr.	11.1	ppg, 7.1	rpg at Bradley in 2001-02.			
22	G	Jeff Hart	6-1/160	So.	3.5	1.0	0.8	39.0	58.8	36.2
23	G	Lenny Miles	6-2/185	Fr.	Has a 42-inch vertical leap.					
21	F	Alfred Neale	6-5/200	Jr.	High-jumped 7'3" in high school.					
35	F	Sean Phaler	6-9/195	Fr.	Walk-on initially signed with UCLA.					
11	G	Javin Tindall*	5-11/175	Sr.	9.1	1.6	2.7	44.6	84.2	42.1
20	G	Ryan Wall	6-0/160	Fr.	A pass-first point guard.					
0	G	Mark Walters*	6-2/195	So.	9.5	5.6	1.8	40.4	67.1	31.5

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Senque Carey	6-4/210	3.5	2.0	3.5	22.2	100.0	20.0
G	Ruben Douglas*	6-5/200	28.0	6.6	2.1	39.7	84.1	39.5
F	Jamaal Williams	6-6/230	11.3	5.1	1.2	49.8	55.9	20.0

Schedule

D20	Coppin State	J17	Air Force	F14	at Air Force
N22	San Francisco St.	D22	New Mexico St.	J24	Utah
N24	N.M. Highlands	D28-29	Lobo Invit.	J26	BYU
D1	Portland	J3	at Wake Forest	J31	at UNLV
D3	at New Mexico St.	J6	San Diego	F2	at San Diego St.
D6	Texas Tech	J9	Cornell	F7	Colorado State
D8	Sacramento State	J12	at Wyoming	F9	Wyoming

8. Air Force

WHAT WE LIKE: The Falcons remain a feisty bunch playing Joe Scott's deliberate Princeton-style offense. They give coaches fits trying to prepare for them, and Scott has enough good players to run the system effectively. Tim Keller has emerged as a reliable scoring threat, and Joel Gerlach is underrated offensively. The Falcons put pressure on defenses because they use the entire shot clock, and it can tax an opponent mentally knowing they don't get any possessions off—just ask Utah, which was the top seed in the conference tournament last season and had to scrape by the Falcons, 42-38, in the first round. That score is nothing new for Air Force, which led the nation in scoring defense, allowing 57.0 points a game.

WHAT SCARES US: Air Force is young, and the Falcons are never particularly big. That's going to be a problem against such teams as BYU, Utah and Colorado State. The Falcons will miss center Tom Bellairs, a four-year starter who was the team's leading rebounder and a great passer out of the post. Vernard Jenkins was a reliable point guard, and he understood what Scott wanted. Can Antoine Hood, who is quicker and stronger, do the same?

X-FACTOR: Take a look at the final stats from last season, and this number jumps off the page: The Falcons shot just 65.1 percent from the free throw line. A lack of points from the stripe equates to a lack of wins, and there's no excuse for Scott's team to shoot so poorly from the line, especially considering outside shooting is supposed to be a team strength. It's about concentration and execution, and these players are supposed to be the mentally toughest in the league. If the Falcons can get their shooting up to 70 percent, they stand a chance to be more successful.

Falcons data

Coach: Joe Scott (29-56, 3 years).
Assistant coaches: Chris Mooney (3 years), Larry Mangino (3), Jon Jordan (3), Selwyn Mansell (1st), Mike McKee (2).
2002-03 record: 12-16. MWC:

3-11/8th.

Last regular-season title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1962.
Site: Colorado Springs, Colo.
Home court: Clune Arena (6,002).
Website: www.airforcesports.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
	F	Jacob Burttschi	6-6/200	Fr.	Led H.S. to two straight Okla. title games.					
33	F	Joel Gerlach*	6-6/195	Sr.	12.1	2.8	0.0	51.4	71.3	42.7
35	F	Marc Holum	6-6/190	Jr.	1.5	1.3	0.3	48.0	37.5	25.0
15	G	Antoine Hood	6-4/165	So.	5.5	1.6	0.5	46.4	63.2	27.9
11	G	Tim Keller*	6-3/180	Jr.	14.8	2.6	2.3	47.2	83.5	45.1
10	G/F	A.J. Kuhle*	6-4/185	Sr.	8.7	3.0	2.7	51.2	64.4	37.5
	G	Matt McCraw	6-2/175	Fr.	One of top players in L.A. prep ranks.					
	G/F	Danny Nwaelele	6-4/190	Fr.	Could have immediate impact as scorer.					
40	F/C	David Peterson	6-8/200	Jr.	2.4	1.6	1.0	51.2	41.2	41.7
	F	Ryan Teets	6-5/185	Fr.	Averaged 17.9 ppg, 9.2 rpg as H.S. senior.					
45	F	Nick Welch	6-7/200	So.	3.7	1.7	0.5	41.7	66.7	19.4

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F/C	Tom Bellairs*	6-7/230	5.8	4.2	2.8	47.9	53.8	33.3
G	Vernard Jenkins*	5-9/185	3.8	1.2	2.4	46.4	45.2	38.2

Schedule

D27-28	Golden Bear Cl.*	J24	BYU	F16	at Texas-Pan Am.
N22	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	J2	Wis.-Milwaukee	J26	Utah
N28	at Navy	J6	Savannah State	J31	at San Diego State
N30	at Belmont	J9	IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	F2	at UNLV
D7	at Auburn	J12	Colorado State	F7	Wyoming
D9	at Texas A&M-CC	J17	New Mexico	F9	Colorado State
D20	Charleston So.	J21	Texas A&M-CC	F14	New Mexico

*at Berkeley, Calif.

WESTERN ATHLETIC



Michael Harris

2002-03 team statistics

Offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Nevada	32	43.5	71.3	35.0	38.1	11.8	6.8	3.8	13.2	76.0
Rice	29	46.9	73.7	38.6	34.9	15.9	8.4	3.3	16.5	74.4
Tulsa	33	46.5	73.0	36.7	37.0	14.8	7.3	4.8	14.2	73.4
SMU	30	43.4	71.1	30.9	37.1	12.9	7.8	4.9	15.8	72.8
Fresno State	28	44.8	70.6	35.5	37.8	14.8	6.6	4.4	15.8	71.6
Hawaii	31	45.8	69.0	36.1	33.4	16.4	6.8	3.1	14.6	70.3
Louisiana Tech	27	43.0	69.2	34.0	36.6	11.4	5.8	3.4	14.3	68.7
San Jose State	28	42.5	62.1	32.8	31.9	13.2	7.1	1.0	14.1	65.8
Boise State	29	41.0	69.8	29.1	33.0	11.6	6.5	3.7	14.2	65.4
UTEP	30	43.8	67.4	36.8	34.2	12.1	5.4	3.9	17.6	63.1

Defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Tulsa	33	39.7	68.1	30.8	35.2	11.6	6.8	2.7	14.0	65.3
Boise State	29	43.0	74.1	34.0	35.6	10.2	6.5	3.9	16.8	66.3
Fresno State	28	41.9	70.3	33.1	32.0	11.8	7.4	1.9	14.9	66.8
Hawaii	31	44.7	69.4	33.3	32.8	11.1	6.5	2.4	14.7	67.4
Rice	29	43.0	71.6	37.3	33.9	14.1	7.0	3.4	16.7	69.6
Louisiana Tech	27	42.9	70.7	33.4	35.7	13.0	6.5	3.7	12.8	70.9
Nevada	32	44.5	66.8	36.2	35.5	12.9	5.6	2.9	14.4	71.9
San Jose State	28	48.8	71.7	41.0	34.4	15.0	5.9	4.4	17.7	72.6
SMU	30	43.4	68.4	36.2	36.4	16.1	7.8	3.9	16.1	72.8
UTEP	30	45.0	66.3	36.6	34.2	14.7	8.0	3.7	11.6	73.2

Nevada has talent, fewer issues than other contenders

This is a season of transition in the Western Athletic Conference, and it has nothing to do with potential realignment.

The conference's three perennial front-runners—Fresno State, Hawaii and Tulsa—have been stung by one ailment or another, be it NCAA sanctions, a key NBA defection or massive changeover. Though all three will be highly competitive, one thing is clear: None will run away with the conference title.

Instead, the slight edge goes to experienced and athletic Nevada, which hasn't made the NCAA Tournament since 1985.

The gap between the No. 1 team and the No. 7 team in the WAC is as close as it has been in recent years. It will make for an ultra-competitive regular season but a weary one for the 10 teams. When the calendar turns to March, the conference champion won't have just one or two losses—making it more difficult to earn a respectable seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Last season's regular-season champion didn't even play in the postseason because of an academic scandal. Fresno State had proved it was the conference's best team all season under new coach Ray Lopes. But the Bulldogs couldn't escape the wake of the Jerry Tarkanian era. A mid-February media report uncovered allegations of academic fraud that occurred during his tenure. Fresno State confirmed the allegations and banned itself from postseason play, and the Bulldogs spent the summer anxiously awaiting the final NCAA ruling and closure to the joint investigation. Lopes concedes he has tough times ahead as he must combat probation and scholarship restrictions.

The setbacks at Hawaii and Tulsa weren't nearly as debilitating, but they will still affect those teams' chances of winning the league title. Hawaii lost star player Carl English, who left early for the NBA draft.

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Fresno State	13	5	20	8
Tulsa	12	6	23	10
SMU	11	7	17	13
Nevada	11	7	18	14
Rice	11	7	19	10
Hawaii	9	9	19	12
Louisiana Tech	9	9	12	15
Boise State	7	11	13	16
San Jose State	4	14	7	21
UTEP	3	15	6	24

Tulsa lost a host of seniors, although the good news is the Golden Hurricane will have Jason Parker back after he initially declared as an early entrant for the NBA draft.

Nevada has the fewest uncertainties and the best player in the conference in Kirk Snyder. Plus, four starters return from last season's 18-win team. So consider Trent Johnson's Wolf Pack the favorite to win the conference—but its advantage over the rest of the league is razor-thin.

ASCENDING: Rice. The Owls have been well-coached in recent years but did not have the talent to compete with the WAC's upper echelon. Now they have the athletes, led by their frontcourt: Yamar Diene and first-team all-conference hopeful Michael Harris. Coach Willis Wilson has been known to get the most out of his talent, and if that's the case this season, Rice will contend for the conference title.

DESCENDING: Tulsa. After having so much success with so many different coaches in recent years, the Golden Hurricane is bound to come back to the pack. It's not so much that Tulsa is diminished, but the rest of the group—SMU, Louisiana Tech, Rice and Nevada—have closed the gap. Tulsa, which must answer several questions, is clumped with many other contenders. The Golden Hurricane will have an uphill climb to reach its third consecutive NCAA Tournament.

PLAYERS ON THE RISE:

Renaldo Major, F, Fresno State. As a junior college transfer, Major entered last season as someone who needed more bulk and a better defensive feel on the Division I level. This season, as a senior, Major could be a force because he runs the court well, and his versatility makes him tough to guard. He was a big part of the Bulldogs' success down the stretch last season, averaging 13.2 points and 5.6 rebounds over the last nine games.

Brock Gillespie, G, Rice. Gillespie is an excellent long-range shooter who made 40.6 percent of his 3-point shots and sank at least two 3-pointers in a game six times last season. He averaged 9.4 points in only 18.5 minutes; he'll get more playing time this season because of the departure of Omar-Seli Mance, the team's top 3-point shooter. Gillespie's outside touch should complement Rice's front line, one of the best in the conference.

Justin Isham, G, SMU. A high jumper in high school, Isham has athleticism that could dazzle SMU fans. The 6-5 Isham averaged only 7.6 points last season but is primed to be a breakout player now that he is teaming in the backcourt with healthy point guard Bryan Hopkins, who should be more than willing to dish out plenty of assists. Isham is expected to become a 3-point threat and will be looked upon to make big plays in the clutch for the Mustangs.

TSN

Eric Prisbell is a sports reporter for the Fresno Bee.

RANKING THE 2003 RECRUITING CLASSES

By Mike Sullivan, Rivals.com

- 1. Louisiana Tech.** One of the best recruiting classes in the nation features a slew of athletic scorers, including JC transfers Donnell Allick, Fred Marshall, Barry Thompson and JueMichael Young.
- 2. Hawaii.** Bobby Nash was a top 100-quality player in high school; Julian Sensley is an unexpected gem.
- 3. UTEP.** Filiberto Rivera is the ace of a recruiting class pieced together for a team that only can improve.
- 4. Tulsa.** The Golden Hurricane secured Oswaldo Gonzalez to help plug a gaping hole in the middle.
- 5. Fresno State.** The Bulldogs recruited JCs well despite probation, but there are several unknowns.
- 6. Nevada.** Adding depth to a strong lineup, Nevada got big man Nick Fazekas to roam the paint.
- 7. SMU.** There's probably not a star here, but the Mustangs landed a player at each position.
- 8. Boise State.** An allotment of mostly guards also includes 7-footer Mattias Johansson to provide size.
- 9. Rice.** Forward Morris Almond should earn time on a team that could contend for the WAC title.
- 10. San Jose State.** The Spartans need size more than anything but didn't get help in that area.

Best bets

1. Finally, there will not be a groundbreaking scandal uncovered this season to turn Fresno State's run at back-to-back regular-season WAC titles topsy-turvy. The Bulldogs haven't gone through a season untarnished by some type of transgression or scandal-revealing documentary in some time. Now, with an NCAA investigation and Jerry Tarkanian's tenure in its rearview mirror, Fresno State can move forward under coach Ray Lopes.

2. Two players will have to answer ques-

tions about possibly leaving early for the 2004 NBA draft. Nevada's Kirk Snyder and SMU's Bryan Hopkins will play well enough to provoke speculation that they could jump early to the NBA.

3. Louisiana Tech will find consistency and finish this season better than last, when the Bulldogs closed with a six-game losing streak. By the time a heralded crop of newcomers meshes late in the season, Louisiana Tech will be dangerous and should threaten for a postseason berth. It will be interesting to see whether the Bulldogs attract appropriate fan support this season.

Predictions

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Nevada* | 7. Louisiana Tech |
| 2. Fresno State | 8. Boise State |
| 3. Hawaii | 9. UTEP |
| 4. Tulsa | 10. San Jose State |
| 5. Rice | *NCAA Tournament pick |
| 6. SMU | |

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Shantay Legans, Fresno State	5-10	165	Sr.
G	Jason Parker, Tulsa	6-2	180	Sr.
G	Kirk Snyder, Nevada	6-6	225	Jr.
F	Michael Harris, Rice	6-6	225	Jr.
G	Bryan Hopkins, SMU	6-0	195	So.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
F	Phil Martin, Hawaii	6-8	235	Sr.
F	Jarius Glenn, Tulsa	6-6	220	Jr.
F	Patrick Simpson, SMU	6-9	220	Jr.
F	Jonathan Woods, Fresno State	6-7	215	Sr.
G	Garry Hill-Thomas, Nevada	6-4	200	Sr.

Player spotlight

Player of the year

Kirk Snyder

Snyder clearly is the most talented player in the conference. The only question is whether the athletic wing can live up to the hype. Snyder, who can play three positions for the Wolf Pack, first caused fans' jaws to drop as a freshman, when he hit a buzzer-beater against Fresno State and showed his vast potential. If Snyder shines and leads Nevada to a conference title, he will have the WAC Player of the Year honors locked up.



Newcomer of the year

Shantay Legans

It's not every season a team adds a 22-year-old who has started 79 games in the Pac-10 over three years, but that's what Fresno State did with Legans. A former Cal point guard, Legans transferred to Fresno State in part because of his long relationship with Bulldogs coach Ray Lopes. Bringing natural leadership ability and a smooth 3-point shooting touch, Legans will have an immediate impact on Fresno State, which needs help in its backcourt after losing three key guards from last season's squad.

Most underrated

Phil Martin

The fifth-year senior has plenty of experience in the postseason and could be the leader of the team. During his career, Martin has played effectively in the shadows of more heralded and talented players such as Predrag Savovic and Carl English. This is Martin's season to make an impact, and he could do so by leading Hawaii to the NCAA Tournament.

1. Nevada

WHAT WE LIKE: Start with junior Kirk Snyder, the conference's best player and brightest pro prospect, a player so versatile that he played three positions last season. Snyder finished fourth in the conference in scoring (16.3 ppg) and second in rebounding (8.1 rpg). But statistics only scratch the surface as to how good Snyder can be because of his athleticism. He was named to the NIT all-star team that played Olympic qualifying squads in the Bahamas this summer, and he could become a 2004 NBA draft candidate. What makes this team exceptionally dangerous, though, is Snyder's supporting cast. In all, four starters return, including Garry Hill-Thomas, one of the conference's most underrated backcourt players.

WHAT SCARES US: The team's mental toughness is a concern because of its 5-11 road record last season. The WAC is one of the most difficult conferences for road teams, considering the travel includes locations from Hawaii to Louisiana. Success on the road builds character and consistency, though, and Nevada certainly needs the latter. The Wolf Pack struggled at the beginning and end of last season but went 12-3 during the heart of the schedule. If Nevada finds the maturity to win on the road, a more experienced Wolf Pack team likely will win the conference title and could reach its first NCAA Tournament in 19 years.

X-FACTOR: How will Nevada play in close games? The Wolf Pack probably can't do worse than last season. Animated coach Trent Johnson does not believe in moral victories, which must have made last season even more difficult to digest. The team lost 11 games either in overtime or by fewer than six points. A shot here or there, and Nevada might be defending WAC champs.

2. Fresno State

WHAT WE LIKE: A joyous celebration ensued when coach Ray Lopes revised his contract and decided not to pursue the Iowa State opening. Lopes, a discipline hard-liner, had reason to stick around: Shantay Legans, a savvy point guard who was a three-year starter at Cal, is eligible this season. Emerging into a team leader as a sophomore is Terry Pettis, who will complement Legans in the backcourt. Renaldo Major could be the team's breakout player if he adds strength to a toothpick-thin frame. Jonathan Woods, who showed flashes of a sound post game last season, is expected to carry an unproven frontcourt.

WHAT SCARES US: For all of the accolades that have been thrown in Lopes' direction, he inherited a program last season with four quality seniors. This team, however, has plenty of unknowns. In the frontcourt, Mustafa Al-Sayyad is athletic yet raw and never has been tested for extensive minutes during his three-year career. Another big man who will see significant time, junior college transfer Jack Marlow, weighs 315 pounds and participated in a rigorous conditioning program during the offseason. Wing player Dreike Bouldin, another junior college transfer, never played high school basketball.

X-FACTOR: A plush \$100 million arena might be enough to offset the team's probation. The Save Mart Center, which holds 16,000 fans for basketball, will be packed and raucous, a selling point for recruits. Sure to be one of the best arenas on the West Coast, its effect could mean a few more victories during the season. Many fans wonder: Was this arena worth seven years of scandal the community endured to construct what some call "The House that Tark Built?"

Wolf Pack data

Coach: Trent Johnson (54-65, 4 years).
Assistant coaches: David Carter (4 years), Mark Fox (3).
2002-03 record: 18-14. WAC: 11-7/3rd. Lost to Texas Tech in NIT first round.

Last regular-season title: 1997 (tie, East Division).
Last NCAA appearance: 1985.
Site: Reno, Nev.
Home court: Lawlor Events Center (11,200).
Website: www.nevadawolfpack.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
11	F	Dean Browne	6-9/220	Jr.	4.7	3.8	0.6	42.2	61.0	0.0
22	F/C	Nick Fazekas	6-11/205	Fr.	Top player in Denver H.S. ranks last year.					
23	G	Garry Hill-Thomas*	6-4/200	Sr.	10.6	4.7	1.0	42.6	67.4	16.7
5	G	Marcelus Kemp	6-4/210	Fr.	Redshirt recovering from broken foot.					
3	G	Todd Okeson*	6-0/165	Sr.	10.2	2.3	1.9	44.3	83.3	43.5
42	F	Sean Paul*	6-9/245	Sr.	6.5	4.6	0.4	50.0	70.8	0.0
21	F	Kevin Pinkney	6-9/220	Jr.	7.3	6.2	0.6	49.5	75.0	0.0
4	G	Kyle Shiloh	6-3/185	Fr.	Brings much-needed point guard skills.					
1	G	Kirk Snyder*	6-6/225	Jr.	16.3	8.1	2.5	44.5	63.8	26.8
2	G	Seth Taylor	6-3/185	Fr.	Walk-on redshirted to gain experience.					
30	F	Jermaine Washington	6-5/195	Jr.	JC transfer can play either forward spot.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Terrance Green	6-2/196	13.3	3.4	2.0	41.4	78.9	35.9
C	Matt Ochs	6-9/232	2.0	2.9	0.3	34.4	63.6	0.0
G	Jerry Petty*	5-11/155	9.4	2.4	2.8	42.0	79.8	33.0

Schedule

N17-28	Preseason NIT	J8 Louisiana Tech	F7 at Louisiana Tech
D4	at Portland	J10 SMU	F12 Boise State
D6	at Pacific	J15 at UTEP	F14 UTEP
D13	Weber State	J17 at Boise State	F18 at Rice
D20-21	Wolf Pack Classic	J22 Tulsa	F21 Bracket Buster
D27	UC Davis	J24 Rice	F28 at Fresno State
J3	at San Jose State	J31 Fresno State	M4 Hawaii
J5	at Hawaii	F2 at Tulsa	M6 San Jose State
		F5 at SMU	

Bulldogs data

Coach: Ray Lopes (20-8, 1 year).
Assistant coaches: Bob Burton (1 year), David Fizedale (1), Andy Newman (1).
2002-03 record: 20-8. WAC: 13-5/1st. Ineligible for postseason

competition.
Last regular-season title: 2003.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Fresno, Calif.
Home court: Save Mart Center (16,000).
Website: www.gobulldogs.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
55	C	Mustafa Al-Sayyad	6-9/225	Sr.	2.7	3.0	0.0	55.6	85.7	0.0
2	F	Dreike Bouldin	6-8/215	Jr.	Has rep as a good shooter and defender.					
11	G	Ashley Knowlton	6-0/165	Sr.	Redshirt recovering from knee injury.					
34	F	Francis Koffi	6-8/215	Jr.	Was a top player in Kansas JC ranks.					
13	G	Shantay Legans	5-10/165	Sr.	Transfer started 79 of 95 games at Cal.					
1	F	Renaldo Major*	6-7/200	Sr.	10.0	4.5	1.1	51.6	80.5	48.6
12	C	Jack Marlow	6-10/315	Jr.	Played little at Okla. St. before transfer.					
3	G	Terry Pettis*	6-1/190	So.	7.9	2.2	3.5	41.6	68.3	33.3
23	G	Marcus West	6-5/200	Jr.	Considered an excellent outside shooter.					
24	F	Jonathan Woods	6-7/215	Sr.	9.6	5.7	1.1	46.6	65.2	50.0

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Travis DeManby	6-4/220	5.9	3.7	2.0	39.3	41.7	38.5
F	Noel Felix*	6-9/220	8.5	4.8	0.9	51.0	67.8	0.0
C	Hiram Fuller*	6-9/240	10.0	7.4	0.5	54.8	70.7	0.0
G	Damon Jackson*	6-4/195	13.3	4.7	1.4	38.6	65.5	35.4
G	Rolando Todd	5-10/185	5.9	1.6	4.3	36.3	73.8	24.3

Schedule

N21	at Oregon	D22 Washington State	J17 at UTEP	F14 Boise State
N29	at Santa Clara	D27 San Francisco	J22 Rice	F19 at Tulsa
D5-6	McCaffrey Classic	J3 at Hawaii	J24 Tulsa	TBA Rice
D10	at Pacific	J5 at San Jose State	J31 at Nevada	F21 Bracket Buster
D13	Creighton	J8 SMU	F5 at Louisiana Tech	F28 Nevada
D19	USC	J10 Louisiana Tech	F7 at SMU	M4 San Jose State
		J15 at Boise State	F12 UTEP	M6 Hawaii

3. Hawaii

WHAT WE LIKE: The team's nucleus is solid, grounded by a formidable frontcourt of Haim Shimonovich and Phil Martin. Neither is exceptional, but both should have success in a conference that has few frontcourt stars. Martin, a fifth-year senior, has been a major contributor since starting 26 games as a freshman. Shimonovich still appeared a bit raw last season but occasionally took advantage of matchups inside. He, along with Martin, should give the club a solid effort on the boards. In the backcourt, Michael Kuebler could be a standout. He showed flashes last season of becoming a solid scorer, topping 25 points four times.

WHAT SCARES US: Hawaii would have been the team to beat had all-around talent Carl English decided not to toss his name into the NBA draft. Without the brash English, there is no clear leader to dominate a game and galvanize the team. Coach Riley Wallace often gets the most out of his talent, but this season will test him. There are several new pieces—albeit talented ones—that must mesh. Highly regarded newcomers Bobby Nash and Paul Jesinkis, a forward who redshirted last year, likely will get significant playing time. The team needs a point guard because Mark Campbell is gone. Senior Jason Carter is expected to see action in that role, but watch junior college transfer Logan Lee.

X-FACTOR: Though junior college recruit Julian Sensley's talent is unquestioned, there is no guarantee he will remain on the roster for the entire season. In the past, Sensley was linked to California, Iona and Fresno State, which was optimistic he would be a breakthrough recruit, but he never played at any of those schools. Sensley returns to his home state with dreams of an NBA future dancing in his head.

Warriors data

Coach: Riley Wallace (262-216, 16 years; 277-243 overall, 18 years; NCAA Tournament 0-3).

Assistant coaches: Bob Nash (22 years), Jackson Wheeler (13), Bob Burke (1).

2002-03 record: 19-12. WAC

9-9/T6th. Lost to Minnesota in NIT second round.

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Honolulu.

Home court: Stan Sheriff Center (10,300).

Website: www.uhathletics.hawaii.edu

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
54	F	Nkeruwm Akpan	6-8/235	Jr.	7.5	4.6	1.3	49.4	62.5	66.7
34	F	Jeff Blackett	6-8/210	Jr.	JC transfer will be 23 years old.					
13	G	Jason Carter	5-10/155	Sr.	4.5	1.0	0.7	36.8	66.7	30.0
40	F	Paul Jesinkis	6-8/230	Sr.	Redshirted because of injury in 2002-03.					
24	G	Michael Kuebler*	6-5/185	Sr.	12.2	2.8	2.2	45.0	81.1	35.9
20	G	Logan Lee	6-2/170	So.	JC recruit averaged 17.0 ppg, 10.0 apq.					
2	F	Phil Martin*	6-8/235	Sr.	11.5	5.7	0.7	52.7	64.4	50.0
33	G/F	Bobby Nash	6-6/195	Fr.	Father, Bob, was a great Hawaii player.					
22	G/F	Vaidotas Peciuskas	6-6/200	Jr.	3.7	1.8	0.8	54.5	60.0	33.3
41	F	Julian Sensley	6-9/225	So.	JC recruit has NBA talent, scouts say.					
14	C	Haim Shimonovich*	6-10/265	Sr.	7.4	6.5	2.5	48.8	59.2	0.0
3	G	Jake Sottos	6-4/165	Jr.	Led JC team to national championship.					
12	C	Milos Zivanovic	6-11/235	So.	0.6	0.9	0.1	40.0	40.0	0.0

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Mark Campbell*	6-8/240	5.4	3.1	6.2	39.3	79.2	28.3
G	Carl English*	6-5/205	19.6	5.4	2.4	42.8	73.1	39.2

Schedule

D27-30 Rainbow Classic	J24 Boise State	F21 at UTEP
N17 BYU-Hawaii	J3 Fresno State	J28 at Rice
N21 UC Santa Barbara	J5 Nevada	J31 at Tulsa
N24-26 Maui Invitational	J10 at San Jose State	F7 San Jose State
D15 Oregon State	J15 at SMU	F12 Louisiana Tech
D19 Texas Southern	J17 at Louisiana Tech	F14 SMU
D20 New Orleans	J22 UTEP	F19 at Boise State

Golden Hurricane data

Coach: John Phillips (50-17, 2 years; NCAA Tournament 2-2).

Assistant coaches: Steve Cooper (2), Kwanza Johnson (2), Pooh Williamson (2).

2002-03 record: 23-10. WAC;

12-6/2nd. Lost to Wisconsin in

NCAA Midwest second round.

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.

Site: Tulsa, Okla.

Home court: Donald W. Reynolds Center (8,355).

Website: www.tulsa-hurricane.com

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
42	G	Sam Belt	6-4/200	Fr.	Walk-on averaged 17.7 ppg as a H.S. senior.					
12	G	Kyle Blankenship	6-0/180	So.	Redshirted after playing in two games.					
24	G	Seneca Collins	6-4/220	So.	1.8	0.8	0.5	31.6	81.8	32.4
22	G	Luke Dobbins	6-1/180	Jr.	Oklahoma native played JC ball last year.					
11	F	Jarius Glenn*	6-6/220	Jr.	9.4	5.3	1.0	52.1	69.1	40.0
33	C	Oswaldo Gonzalez	6-9/240	Jr.	JC transfer expected to fill need inside.					
44	C	Aliou Keita	6-8/260	So.	0.6	1.4	—	33.3	75.0	—
3	G	Kenneth Kelley	6-1/185	Fr.	Averaged 22.0 ppg as a H.S. senior.					
5	G	Brett McDade	6-0/165	Fr.	Four-year H.S. record was 102-28.					
4	G	Trevor Meier	6-5/206	So.	1.1	0.9	—	42.9	100.0	50.0
14	G	Jason Parker*	6-2/180	Sr.	15.4	3.2	4.1	43.2	84.2	34.2
50	F	Anthony Price	6-8/230	So.	2.3	1.8	0.0	42.7	22.7	—
41	F	Charles Ramsdell	6-10/215	Fr.	Three-time state high jump champ.					
34	F	Guilherme Teichmann	6-9/215	Jr.	Junior college recruit from Brazil.					
2	G	Chris Wallace	6-2/185	So.	1.2	0.3	0.8	34.6	70.0	25.0

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Charlie Davis*	6-7/232	6.0	7.0	1.3	55.9	56.4	33.3
F	Kevin Johnson*	6-8/222	15.2	7.0	2.3	51.8	75.7	35.8
F	Marqus Ledoux	6-8/210	4.2	2.7	0.4	44.3	67.5	23.1
G	Dante Swanson*	5-10/180	15.1	4.5	3.0	45.4	4.5	43.0

Schedule

D20 at Wichita State	J22 at Nevada	F19 Fresno State
N22 Northwestern St.	D23 Texas State	J24 at Fresno State
N25 at Oklahoma	D30 Arkansas	J29 San Jose State
N29 at TCU	J3 at Louisiana Tech	J31 Hawaii
D1 Georgia State*	J5 at SMU	F2 Nevada
D6 at Oral Roberts	J8 UTEP	F5 at Boise State
D14 New Mexico State	J10 Boise State	F7 at UTEP
	J17 Rice	F14 at Rice

*at Duluth, Minn.

4. Tulsa

WHAT WE LIKE: A sigh of relief blew threw the Oklahoma plains in the spring, when point guard Jason Parker, who graduated in three years, withdrew from the NBA draft and returned to school. As a junior, Parker ranked fifth among conference players in scoring, fourth in assists and third in steals. The frontcourt took a hit with the loss of stalwart Kevin Johnson, Charlie Davis and Marqus Ledoux, but coach John Phillips recruited appropriately. Phillips lassoed junior college big man Oswaldo Gonzalez, who will start at center. Guilherme Teichmann, another junior college transfer, can play the small forward position as well as the other frontcourt spots.

WHAT SCARES US: The Golden Hurricane frittered away the early part of last season—losing four of five conference games at one point—rallied to make the NCAA Tournament and then squandered a chance at an upset in a second-round game against Wisconsin. Tulsa doesn't have nearly the talent that it possessed last season. Outside of Parker and Jarius Glenn, no other returning player averaged more than 10 minutes of action last season. Tulsa also lost five of its top seven scorers. The team is expecting contributions from five newcomers, all of whom will need time to adjust to Division I basketball.

X-FACTOR: The Golden Hurricane had a decided advantage the last three years in hosting the WAC Tournament. Tulsa reached the final each year and finally won it last season, when top-seeded Fresno State was banned from the postseason. This season, the tournament is scheduled for the plush Save Mart Center in Fresno, Calif., where Tulsa isn't one of the favorite teams around. Tulsa has an uphill climb to return to the NCAA Tournament.

5. Rice

WHAT WE LIKE: This team is hungry and good. Consider this: Rice pounded regular-season WAC champ Fresno State by 21 last March and secured its best record in more than a decade. But the Owls were left out of the NIT field, a snub that rankled coach Willis Wilson. This season, Rice has four key players back and will contend for the conference title. Rebounding maven Michael Harris is a monster in the paint despite standing only 6-6. Yamar Diene, a quick leaper inside, returns, as do guards Jason McKrieth and Rashid Smith, who give the Owls enough experience to have a shot at the postseason. Newcomers Greg Killings and Morris Almond played for the U.S. Select team in the Global Games during the summer.

WHAT SCARES US: The Owls have star power in Harris and a solid supporting cast, but frontcourt depth could be a factor. In the backcourt, Omar-Seli Mance was the team's biggest 3-point threat, but his departure means Brock Gillespie will have to pick up the slack. Plus, it remains to be seen whether Rice has the fan support to create a distinct home-court advantage at the quaint Autry Court—the Owls are about option No. 87 for fans in Houston. For years, the knock on the program was that it lacked the athleticism to compete with top-tier WAC teams. Now it has the athletes, but will it attract the attention?

X-FACTOR: How much of an impact can Harris make in his junior season? Harris averaged 26.1 minutes last season but started only four games. He led the Owls in scoring and shot 62.3 percent from the floor. Statistics are one thing, but because of Mance's departure, Harris must emerge as the team leader this season.

Owls data

Coach: Willis Wilson (147-164, 11 years).

Assistant coaches: Todd Smith (14 years), Marty Gross (13), Marty Gillespie (2).

2002-03 record: 19-10. WAC:

11-7/T3rd.

Last regular-season title: 1970 (SWC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1970.

Site: Houston.

Home court: Autry Court (5,000).

Website: www.riceowls.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
	F	Morris Almond	6-6/165	Fr.	Played on a U.S. Select team this year.					
10	G	Arthur Culver	6-0/170	Fr.	Walk-on played in one game last season.					
42	C	Yamar Diene*	6-9/230	Sr.	8.9	5.9	0.6	56.9	76.2	0.0
1	G	Brock Gillespie	6-0/165	Jr.	9.4	1.3	1.2	38.7	78.8	40.6
33	F	Michael Harris	6-6/225	Jr.	15.3	7.3	1.1	62.3	75.8	47.1
14	F	J.R. Harrison	6-6/215	So.	2.0	1.7	0.2	54.8	38.5	28.6
	C	Greg Killings	6-10/225	Fr.	Big-bodied post has raw skills.					
12	F	Christian Kollik	6-7/210	Sr.	1.0	0.8	0.3	33.3	71.4	15.4
34	F	Jason McKrieth*	6-4/210	Jr.	12.3	4.3	3.3	49.4	85.1	42.4
24	F/G	Jamaal Moore	6-5/195	So.	4.4	1.4	0.5	44.7	63.8	10.0
	G	Jason Okresik	6-1/165	Fr.	Led H.S. team to consecutive state titles.					
32	G	Rashid Smith*	6-3/175	Sr.	3.5	1.8	4.4	32.0	61.3	29.0
	G	Lorenzo Williams	6-1/165	Fr.	Averaged 21.3 ppg, 7.1 apg as a senior.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
C/F	Brandon Evans*	6-9/250	3.1	4.5	1.1	38.8	59.5	0.0
G	Omar-Seli Mance*	6-2/190	15.2	2.8	3.1	44.4	81.7	41.8
G	Michael Walton	6-0/170	1.5	0.5	1.2	35.3	44.4	40.0

Schedule

D20	Texas-Pan American	J20	SMU	F14	Tulsa
N20-23	Top World Classic*	D22	Navy	J22	at Fresno State
N28	Middle Tennessee	J2	Connecticut	J24	at Nevada
N30	Stanford	J5	at Louisiana Tech	J29	Hawaii
D3	at Houston	J8	Boise State	J31	San Jose State
D6	at Tulane	J10	UTEP	F5	at UTEP
D18	at Lamar	J17	at Tulsa	F7	at Boise State
					*at Fairbanks, Alaska

6. SMU

WHAT WE LIKE: Bryan Hopkins could have a breakout season and prove why he was arguably the best recruit in school history. Hopkins is neck and neck with Nevada's Kirk Snyder in terms of the WAC players who have the most pro potential. SMU has an assortment of talent on its roster, but the team belongs to Hopkins, who will run the show at point guard and determine just how high the Mustangs climb in the standings. Justin Isham, a junior who plays above the rim, will complement Hopkins in an exciting backcourt.

WHAT SCARES US: Hopkins has to do two things if he wants to develop into a star: shoot better and cut down on turnovers. Granted, his freshman year was riddled by nagging injuries—something coaches still are concerned about heading into the season—but he must improve in those areas to be considered one of the best point guards in the sport. Hopkins shot only 35.1 percent last season and had more turnovers (121) than assists (112). SMU rallied last season after losing four of its first six games. There exists the perception in Dallas, though, that the Mustangs underachieve considering the talent they usually have. Last season, despite having conference player of the year Quinton Ross, the team couldn't muster a postseason appearance.

X-FACTOR: How well the frontcourt duo of Eric Castro and Patrick Simpson performs will determine if SMU can challenge for the conference crown. Simpson has a solid jump shot for a big man and possesses smooth post-up moves. Simpson finished last season strong, scoring in double figures in 13 of his final 16 games. At 250 pounds, Castro is an aggressive rebounder who shoots well around the basket—57.8 percent over two seasons.

Mustangs data

Coach: Mike Dement (128-105, 8 years; 250-228 overall, 17 years; NCAA Tournament 0-1).

Assistant coaches: Robert Lineburg (6 years), Coleman Crawford (1), Robert Brickey (1).

2002-03 record: 17-13. WAC:

11-7/3rd.

Last regular-season title: 1993 (SWC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1993.

Site: Dallas.

Home court: Moody Coliseum (8,998).

Website: www.smumustangs.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
12	G	Bobby Aitkenhead	6-2/195	Jr.	0.5	0.2	0.1	66.7	50.0	00.0
23	G	Lavardicus Atkins	6-3/195	Jr.	1.8	0.9	0.6	22.2	54.2	13.3
10	G	Demetric Bennett	6-3/190	Fr.	Hits 3-pointers accurately and often.					
15	G	Duke Biggers	6-2/185	Fr.	Redshirted last season to mature.					
21	C	Eric Castro*	6-8/250	Jr.	9.0	6.0	1.1	56.5	62.3	42.9
20	G	Michael Dement	6-0/175	Jr.	0.6	—	0.2	33.3	—	33.3
11	G	Bryan Hopkins*	6-0/195	So.	13.1	3.2	3.9	35.1	76.7	32.9
22	G	Ryan Hopkins*	6-2/170	So.	0.4	0.4	0.4	25.0	—	33.3
3	G	Justin Isham	6-5/198	Jr.	7.6	3.5	2.5	45.9	66.2	32.6
24	F	Kris Lowe	6-6/212	Sr.	4.3	2.6	0.9	38.0	83.3	38.5
5	G	Brian Miller	6-5/205	So.	2.1	0.7	0.5	27.7	53.8	20.5
2	F	Devon Pearson	6-7/225	Fr.	An elite rebounder in his class.					
25	C	Donatas Rackauskas	6-11/240	So.	0.7	1.1	0.1	26.3	62.5	0.0
40	F/C	Chris Reay	6-8/245	Fr.	Big, strong, improving on the perimeter.					
4	G	Trent Redden	6-3/175	So.	Walk-on will provide perimeter depth.					
1	F	Patrick Simpson*	6-9/220	Jr.	11.9	7.1	1.2	51.9	69.5	41.2

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Jibran Kelley	6-8/225	2.0	3.0	0.3	43.8	50.0	0.0
G/F	Quinton Ross*	6-6/195	20.3	6.4	2.1	45.3	79.3	29.8

Schedule

D20-21	Boilermaker Invit.*	J17	San Jose State	F14	at Hawaii
N25	at TCU	D31	at Navy	J24	Louisiana Tech
N28	at San Diego	J3	Rice	J29	at UTEP
D1	Texas Tech	J5	Tulsa	J31	at Boise State
D3	at Baylor	J8	at Fresno State	F5	Nevada
D15	Wake Forest	J10	at Nevada	F7	Fresno State
D18	Appalachian State	J15	Hawaii	F12	at San Jose State
					*at West Lafayette, Ind.

7. Louisiana Tech

WHAT WE LIKE: The team is loaded with newcomers, including the conference's recruiting coup of the year, Paul Millsap of Grambling, La. Millsap adds bulk to the frontcourt and will be a factor on the defensive end first. He gets off the floor quickly, is aggressive and rebounds and blocks shots with a passion. Above all, Millsap plays hard all of the time. Combo guard Donnell Allick, a junior college transfer, will be another key contributor. Allick is a scorer whose best attributes are outside shooting and the ability to penetrate.

WHAT SCARES US: As January turned to February last season, Louisiana Tech went from hot to frigid. A seven-game winning streak during the heart of conference play was offset by a six-game losing skid to end the season. The team has been revamped with the usual assortment of slashers and athletes. But it will take time for the new guys to mesh and adjust to Division I basketball. As a result, this team is loaded with more uncertainty than any other in the conference. Forward Wayne Powell, who backed up Antonio Meeking last season, likely will see the most action among the returning players. Louisiana Tech lost six seniors, including five who logged the most minutes on last season's team.

X-FACTOR: How much potential do the newcomers have, and how fast will they reach that potential? Besides Allick, junior college transfers Fred Marshall and JueMichael Young are expected to make an impact. Marshall is known for his quickness and clutch play and was the MVP of the Jayhawk Conference last season. Young was one of the top 50 high school seniors before going to LSU and then junior college. Finally there is Barry Thompson, who averaged a double-double in his last season of junior college.

Bulldogs data

Coach: Keith Richard (91-54, 5 years).
Assistant coaches: Johnny Simmons (5 years), Kevin Caballero (4).
2002-03 record: 12-15. WAC: 9-9/6th.
Last regular-season title: 1999

(Sun Belt).

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: Ruston, La.

Home court: Thomas Assembly Center (8,000).

Website: www.latechsports.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
	G	Donnell Allick	6-4/195	Jr.	JC transfer is a natural shooting guard.					
23	G	Corey Dean	6-4/210	Jr.	3.6	3.2	1.4	38.2	42.4	33.3
10	G	Bruce Edwards*	6-1/175	So.	4.7	2.3	1.9	36.1	60.9	13.3
13	F	Jeremy Johnson	6-8/235	So.	2.3	1.2	0.2	30.4	69.9	—
	G	Fred Marshall	6-3/175	Jr.	JC transfer is a slasher with speed.					
22	G	Brian Martin	6-2/170	Sr.	Redshirt recovering from injury.					
	F	Paul Millsap	6-8/210	Fr.	Has the reach for rebounding and blocking.					
4	F	Wayne Powell	6-9/255	Jr.	3.0	2.2	0.3	50.0	60.7	0.0
35	C	Joe Sykes	6-10/257	Sr.	0.9	1.3	—	22.2	75.0	—
	F	Barry Thompson	6-7/220	Jr.	JC transfer is a solid inside scorer.					
2	G	Eric Woods	6-4/200	So.	3.6	1.3	0.8	44.9	78.9	40.5
	G	JueMichael Young	6-5/205	Jr.	JC transfer can hit from long range.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
F	Darrian Brown*	6-6/230	8.7	4.5	0.5	42.2	81.8	29.1
G	Lavelle Felton*	6-5/190	13.7	5.1	3.3	48.8	69.8	45.9
F	Zach Johnson	6-10/280	5.0	6.0	0.4	50.0	56.8	0.0
F	Antonio Meeking*	6-8/265	17.9	7.3	1.1	49.6	68.8	0.0
G	Michael Wilder*	6-2/175	9.4	2.4	2.0	30.2	83.6	27.4

Schedule

N21 at Alabama	D20 Tougaloo	J15 San Jose State	F14 at San Jose State
N25 Jackson State	D23 at UAB	J17 Hawaii	F21 SMU
D2 at Northern Iowa	D27 at McNeese State	J24 at SMU	F26 UTEP
D6 at Ark.-Pine Bluff	D30 Montevallo	J29 at Boise State	F28 Boise State
D13 Ark.-Pine Bluff	J3 Tulsa	J31 at UTEP	M4 at Rice
D17 at Arkansas	J5 Rice	F5 Fresno State	M6 at Tulsa
	J8 at Nevada	F7 Nevada	
	J10 at Fresno State	F12 at Hawaii	

Broncos data

Coach: Greg Graham (13-16, 1 year).
Assistant coaches: Andy McCluskey (1), Tim Cleary (1), Julious Coleman (1).
2002-03 record: 13-16. WAC: 7-11/8th.
Last regular-season title: 1999

(Big West)

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Boise, Idaho.

Home court: The Pavilion at Boise State (12,380).

Website: www.broncosports.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
11	C	Kostas Avgerinos	7-0/212	Sr.	4.7	0.7	0.0	34.6	83.3	0.0
33	C/F	Josh Bates	6-7/200	So.	1.9	1.0	0.1	37.5	83.3	0.0
10	F	Larry Davidson	6-10/218	Fr.	Probably most talented big man on roster.					
1	G/F	Bryan Defares*	6-4/216	Sr.	14.2	4.7	3.1	39.1	74.5	31.5
45	F	Jason Ellis*	6-7/216	Jr.	9.4	7.8	0.9	49.0	75.0	0.0
	G	Darius Harper	6-1/185	Fr.	Son of former NBA player Derek Harper.					
	G	Franco Harris	5-11/170	Jr.	Standout in California JC ranks last year.					
15	F	Aaron Haynes*	6-7/180	Sr.	14.7	5.7	1.1	44.6	76.1	29.5
	C	Mattias Johansson	7-0/250	Jr.	Certainly big enough to make an impact.					
5	G	Coby Karl	6-4/178	Fr.	George's son might be a player.					
	G	Eric Lane	6-0/170	Fr.	Likely to become the backup point guard.					
20	G/F	Booker Nabors*	6-5/181	Sr.	7.2	2.2	1.2	37.3	72.4	31.5
30	G	Cory Ortiz	6-4/205	Sr.	1.4	0.5	0.1	24.4	40.0	21.2
4	G	Joe Skiffer*	6-3/198	Sr.	4.0	2.2	3.2	39.4	67.9	11.1

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	C.J. Williams	6-0/175	8.9	2.3	1.2	35.6	57.7	31.6

Schedule

N21 at Portland	D13 Idaho	J17 Nevada	F14 at Fresno State
N24 Utah Valley State	D16 Portland State	J22 at San Jose State	F18 Hawaii
N29 Eastern Oregon	D20 at Oregon State	J24 at Hawaii	F21 San Jose State
D2 Brigham Young	D28 Portland	J29 Louisiana Tech	F26 at SMU
D6 at Idaho	J3 at UTEP	J31 SMU	F28 at Louisiana Tech
D10 at Idaho State	J8 at Rice	F5 Tulsa	M6 UTEP
	J10 at Tulsa	F7 Rice	
	J15 Fresno State	F12 at Nevada	

8. Boise State

WHAT WE LIKE: Arguably the most experienced team in the conference, the Broncos return all five starters, four of whom are seniors, and nearly 80 percent of their point production from last season. Bryan Defares is a proven scorer who needs to hone his shot consistency. Junior college transfer Franco Harris and freshmen Eric Lane and Darius Harper are expected to help solve the team's shooting woes; the Broncos hit 41.0 percent from the floor and 29.1 percent from 3-point range last season. The added depth could benefit Joe Skiffer, a point guard who looks to pass first and score second.

WHAT SCARES US: Coach Greg Graham succeeded in making the Broncos competitive in his first season, and even beat Hawaii and Tulsa along the way. But the challenge remains for Graham, a former Oregon assistant, to instill the high-octane offense the Ducks employ. Expect the Broncos to improve in that area, but the conversion to a more uptempo system is far from finished. One problem last season was a lack of size. Junior college transfer Mattias Johansson is a 7-footer who still needs to develop but at least can provide a defensive presence. If Jason Ellis can play power forward with some success, it would allow Aaron Haynes to play the wing, where he excels. Regardless of what happens, Graham needs more size to challenge the conference's top half.

X-FACTOR: One reason Boise State might be more exciting to watch this season is Coby Karl, son of former Milwaukee Bucks coach George Karl. Coby Karl, the best newcomer on the team, redshirted last season in part to add strength. Blessed with an exceptional shooting touch, he could push starting guard Booker Nabors for minutes.

9. UTEP

WHAT WE LIKE: Good news came in May, when second-year Miners coach Billy Gillispie learned that Roy Smallwood was granted a fifth year of eligibility. Smallwood missed most of the 2002-03 season because a knee injury that required surgery. Smallwood has averaged 11.7 points during his career and ranks 16th on the Miners' all-time scoring list (1,119 points). He is rarely exceptional, but usually solid, which is what UTEP needs. Gillispie pieced together a strong recruiting class, headed by Filiberto Rivera, the MVP of the NJCAA Tournament, and Omar Thomas, who averaged 36.1 points and 17.0 rebounds last season in junior college.

WHAT SCARES US: There still isn't enough talent, even though Gillispie has been heralded as the coach who can turn around the program. Former Fresno State coach Jerry Tarkanian was a huge fan of Gillispie, a former assistant at Baylor, Tulsa and Illinois. Gillispie's recruiting class was solid, and four junior college players are expected to contribute right away. Thomas Gehrke, the 2002 Brazilian junior of the year, is long but a little too thin to make a major impact. Noted for his shooting, Gehrke should be better adjusted to Division I basketball after being thrown in at midseason last year.

X-FACTOR: Let's see how Giovanni St. Amant adjusts to his second year on the court. He set school freshman records for points (407), scoring average (13.6 ppg), 20-point games (seven) and free-throw average (82.8 percent). St. Amant led all WAC freshmen in scoring and averaged 35.1 minutes. If St. Amant continues to improve, he will complement Rivera in a backcourt that should be among the best in the conference.

Miners data

Coach: Billy Gillispie (6-24, 1 year).
Assistant coaches: Sergio Rouco (1 year), Doc Sadler (1).
2002-03 record: 6-24. WAC: 3-15/10th.

Last regular-season title: 1992.
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: El Paso, Texas.
Home court: Don Haskins Center (12,222).
Website: www.utepathletics.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
44	G	Alex Anthis	6-3/195	So.	1.0	0.7	0.4	34.5	30.0	31.3
10	G	Chris Craig*	6-1/180	Sr.	7.9	2.7	3.4	42.0	80.9	43.0
33	F	Joe Devance	6-7/215	Jr.	3.0	1.9	0.2	42.7	54.5	36.4
12	G	Omar Duran*	5-8/170	Sr.	10.3	2.6	1.9	37.2	67.7	38.0
11	F	Thomas Gehrke	6-8/215	Jr.	7.6	2.9	2.1	34.4	68.1	11.5
23	F	Darius Mattear	6-6/210	Sr.	3.5	4.6	0.6	53.8	65.2	0.0
2	F	Brent Murphy	6-8/240	So.	Hit 60% of 3-pointers in JC ranks last year.					
21	G	Filiberto Rivera	6-1/165	Jr.	MVP of 2003 NJCAA Tournament.					
4	G	Giovanni St. Amant*	6-3/185	So.	13.6	3.1	2.5	42.6	82.8	39.7
5	F	Roy Smallwood	6-6/210	Sr.	6.0	7.2	2.8	35.5	50.0	0.0
G/F		Omar Thomas	6-5/205	Jr.	Top scorer in NJCAA Division I last year.					
40	F/C	John Tofi*	6-8/240	So.	12.9	5.7	1.0	48.9	68.6	0.0
G/F		Jason Williams	6-5/205	So.	JC transfer can play great defense.					

Key loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
C	Justino Victoriano*	6-9/220	8.2	8.5	0.8	54.7	54.4	0.0

Schedule

D27-28 SunClassic	J24 at San Jose State	F19 San Jose State
N29 Portland State	J29 SMU	F21 Hawaii
D3 at Texas Tech	J31 Louisiana Tech	F26 at Louisiana Tech
D6 at New Mexico St.	F5 Rice	F28 at SMU
D8 Houston	F7 Tulsa	M6 at Boise State
D17 New Mexico State	F12 at Fresno State	
D22 Ark.-Pine Bluff	F14 at Nevada	

10. San Jose State

WHAT WE LIKE: The Spartans are a well-coached squad with more scorers than last year's team. Newcomers will make the loudest impact. The starter at point guard could be Ryan Miller, a junior college transfer who has some speed and is an excellent shooter, having made 51 percent of his field-goal attempts two seasons ago. Another junior college transfer with outstanding shooting ability is Michael McFadden, who could play shooting guard or small forward. Kyle Wilson, who can play both guard positions, becomes eligible in December after transferring from Massachusetts to the West Coast, which is closer to his home in British Columbia, Canada.

WHAT SCARES US: There is not enough size in the frontcourt for the team to be competitive in the conference. The Spartans were so vertically challenged last season that Antonio Lawrence, at 6-4, had to play power forward on occasion. Lawrence shocked the coaches by declaring for the NBA draft after a solid but not spectacular freshman season. At 6-6, both D.J. Brown and Aaron Watson are expected to supply some depth in the frontcourt, but that area is a question. Marquin Chandler, who sat last season after transferring from George Washington, is an athletic forward who is expected to score.

X-FACTOR: Senior Eric Walton could be the player who determines how much San Jose State improves. He is as thin as dental floss but has potential to be a factor inside for a team that needs a frontcourt presence. If Walton's offseason conditioning pays off with better footwork, toughness and post moves, then the Spartans could rise in the standings. But that might be too much pressure to place on one player's shoulders.

Spartans data

Coach: Phil Johnson (19-37, 2 years).
Assistant coaches: Dennis Cutts (1 year), Eric Matthews (1), Donald Williams (1).
2002-03 record: 7-21.

WAC: 4-14/9th.
Last regular-season title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: San Jose, Calif.
Home court: The Event Center (5,000).
Website: www.sjsuspartans.com

Roster

**2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
	F	D.J. Brown	6-6/230	Jr.	JC transfer could be team's top scorer.					
32	G	Phil Calvert	6-3/212	Sr.	Was a scorer before redshirt year.					
	F	Marquin Chandler	6-7/220	Jr.	Transfer from George Washington.					
22	G	Kareem Guilbeaux	6-3/182	Jr.	4.3	1.6	0.9	44.4	26.7	33.3
23	F	Brett Lilly	6-6/205	Sr.	4.2	1.6	0.5	36.1	83.3	34.7
G/F		Michael McFadden	6-5/205	Jr.	JC transfer is a solid ballhandler.					
	G	Ryan Miller	5-10/175	Jr.	JC transfer has good shooting range.					
5	G	Maurice Moore*	6-2/180	Sr.	2.8	1.1	2.7	39.0	46.2	44.4
14	G	Bim Okunrinboye	6-0/189	Sr.	1.9	0.9	0.9	41.5	45.5	29.6
30	F	Eric Walton	6-8/215	Sr.	5.6	3.4	0.3	46.7	53.5	0.0
	F	Aaron Watson	6-6/230	Jr.	JC transfer can clean the glass and dunk.					
	G	Kyle Wilson	6-0/165	So.	UMass transfer is eligible in December.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Moises Alvarez	6-2/180	6.3	1.4	0.9	51.2	57.1	44.2
F	Keith Everage*	6-5/215	6.9	4.9	0.4	45.4	48.1	—
G	Brandon Hawkins*	6-3/191	13.0	4.4	2.8	44.3	76.6	28.8
F	Antonio Lawrence*	6-4/190	11.3	6.2	1.3	43.5	72.1	29.6
G	Scott Sonnenberg*	5-11/173	3.3	1.0	1.8	26.5	66.7	24.5
G	Keith West	6-2/190	9.5	3.3	2.0	41.7	66.3	26.9

Schedule

D19-22 Hawaii Slam Tour*	J22 Boise State	F19 at UTEP
N21 at Pacific	J24 UTEP	F21 at Boise State
N25 UC Santa Cruz	J29 at Tulsa	F26 Rice
N29 at Cal Poly	J31 at Rice	F28 Tulsa
D3 Santa Clara	F7 at Hawaii	M4 at Fresno State
D6 Cal St. Northridge	F12 SMU	M6 at Nevada
D13 Cal St. Sacramento	F14 Louisiana Tech	*at Laie, Hawaii

Missouri Valley

Rank 11

By Steve Pivovar, Omaha World-Herald

Predictions

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Wichita State* | 7. Evansville |
| 2. Creighton | 8. Northern Iowa |
| 3. SW Missouri State | 9. Drake |
| 4. Bradley | 10. Indiana State |
| 5. Southern Illinois | *NCAA Tournament pick |
| 6. Illinois State | |

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Phillip Gilbert, Bradley	6-3	197	Sr.
G	Randy Burns, Wichita State	5-11	185	Jr.
G	Luke McDonald, Drake	6-6	215	Sr.
F	Jamar Howard, Wichita State	6-5	196	Jr.
F	Clint Cuffie, Evansville	6-6	200	Sr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	James Gillingham, Bradley	6-4	200	Sr.
G	Merrill Andrews, SW Missouri	6-1	180	Sr.
G	Darren Brooks, S. Illinois	6-3	205	Jr.
F	Brody Deren, Creighton	6-8	245	Sr.
F/C	David Gruber, Northern Iowa	6-6	230	Sr.

Player of the year

Jamar Howard

Opposing fans loved to hate the animated Howard the past two seasons. As the best player on the league's best team, he'll give fans more reasons to get worked up this season. He's a whirlwind at both ends of the court who can back up his act. The league's reigning defensive player of the year, he continues to improve as an offensive threat. If he avoids foul trouble, he could lead Wichita State to its first league title in two decades.

Newcomer of the year

Marcellus Sommerville, F, Bradley

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Southern Illinois*	16	2	24	7
Creighton**	15	3	19	5
Wichita State^	12	6	18	12
SW Missouri State	12	6	17	12
Evansville	8	10	12	16
Bradley	8	10	12	18
Northern Iowa	7	11	11	17
Drake	5	13	10	20
Illinois State	5	13	8	21
Indiana State	2	16	7	24

*Lost to Missouri in NCAA Midwest first round.

**Lost to Central Michigan in NCAA West first round.

^Lost to Iowa State in NIT opening round.

1. Wichita State

Outlook: Some Wichita State fans found it difficult to stomach that former Kansas guard Mark Turgeon was picked to take over the struggling program three years ago. Where Turgeon cut his basketball teeth no longer is an issue because the Shockers are set to field the league's best team. The only player who made a significant contribution last season who isn't returning is Craig Steven, and he was a role player. Guard Randy Burns and forward Jamar Howard are player of the year candidates, and starters Rob Kampman and Paul Miller also return. Early on, Miller showed signs of being a dominating big man. Aaron Hogg, the league's sixth man of the year last season, likely will play an even greater role as a senior, but Jerome Holman might be the key to it all. Holman showed his wizardry at the point despite missing 17 games with a leg injury. A healthy Holman can befuddle any defense.

Coach: Mark Turgeon (42-46, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Jerome Holman, 5-10/Sr.; G Randy Burns, 5-11/Jr. (15.1 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 42.7 FG%, 37.3 3PT%, 79.7 FT%); C Paul Miller, 6-10/So. (4.7 rpg, 48.3 FG%); F Jamar Howard, 6-5/Jr. (14.2 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 50.5 FG%, 45.0 3PT%); F Rob Kampman, 6-8/Jr. (4.1 rpg, 47.2 FG%, 38.1 3PT%, 80.5 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1983.

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Wichita, Kan.

Home court: Kansas Coliseum (9,600).

Website: www.goshockers.com

2. Creighton

Outlook: The Bluejays figure to be looking inside more now that Kyle Korver isn't around to torment opponents from the perimeter. Losing Korver, Larry House and DeAnthony Bowden will put pressure on returning big men Brody Deren, Joe Dabbert and Mike Grimes to become more offensive. Grimes showed outstanding improvement and could be primed for a breakout season. Creighton expects immediate help from 6-9 center/forward Anthony Tolliver. The most pressing question is who replaces Korver, just one of six players to win the league player of the year award twice. Nate Funk, an intense competitor, figures to be the likely successor as the go-to guy along the perimeter. Replacing the leadership of Korver and Bowden might be harder. Tyler McKinney must step up his game at the point. McKinney, a two-year starter, could be pressed by junior college transfer Johnny Mathies if he continues to be soft against the better opposing guards.

Coach: Dana Altman (175-100, 9 years; 258-167 overall, 14 years; 2-6 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Tyler McKinney, 6-2/Jr. (4.1 apg, 43.5 FG%); G Nate Funk, 6-3/So. (49.2 FG%, 35.7 3PT%); F Brody Deren, 6-8/Sr. (5.1 rpg, 56.7 FG%); F Mike Grimes, 6-7/Sr. (4.0 rpg, 66.3 FG%); F Michael Lindeman, 6-6/Sr. (46.4 FG%, 46.2 3PT%, 88.1 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Omaha, Neb.

Home court: Omaha Convention Center & Arena (16,000).

Website: www.gocreighton.com

3. Southwest Missouri State

Outlook: The return of four starters and a fifth who started eight games before being injured is reason for optimism. Combine the wealth of experience with the most talented newcomers in decades, and coach Barry Hinson has reason to be downright giddy. The team saved its 2002-03 season from a 3-6 start by relying on the league's best defense, allowing just 61.4 ppg. But to be a true league title contender, the Bears must keep up with the league's elite. They were 0-7 against the Valley's top three teams last season. Merrill Andrews appears primed to replace all-conference guard Terrance McGee as the team's leader. The team also has starters back in center Monwell Randle and forwards Kellen Easley and Tamarr Maclin. Forward Shelton Colwell started last season's first eight games before a leg injury took him out of the lineup. Junior college transfer Anthony Shavies and six in-state recruits make up the Bears' highly regarded recruiting class.

Coach: Barry Hinson (70-54, 4 years; 106-77 overall, 6 years).

Projected starters: G Anthony Shavies, 6-4/Jr. (JC transfer); G Merrill Andrews, 6-1/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 46.2 FG%, 41.7 3PT%); C Monwell Randle, 6-7/Sr. (7.1 rpg, 46.5 FG%); F Tamarr Maclin, 6-7/Jr. (6.4 rpg, 44.4 FG%); F Kellen Easley, 6-7/So. (44.3 FG%, 82.1 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1990 (Mid-Continent).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Springfield, Mo.

Home court: Hammons Student Center (8,846).

Website: www.sports.smsu.edu

4. Bradley

Outlook: Jim Les starts his second season as Bradley's coach and appears to have all the pieces to improve on a 12-18 finish. Player of the Year candidate Phillip Gilbert, the league's active career scoring leader (1,352 points), and versatile James Gillingham headline the list of returning players that also includes experienced reserves Jason Faulknor and Jabbar Battle. Now, Les must overcome the inconsistency that kept the Braves from being more than just an upset threat. The return of 7-0 Brandyn Heemskerk, who missed almost all of last season, and the addition of transfer Marcellus Sommerville could take some pressure off the unassuming Gilbert. Heemskerk isn't a difference-maker, but he can make an impact in a league that usually is short on big men. Sommerville started his career at Iowa, then received JC All-American honors after averaging 25.3 points and 9.5 rebounds for Southwestern Illinois.

Coach: Jim Les (12-18, 1 year).

Projected starters: G Marcellus Sommerville, 5-11/Sr. (4.6 apg, 42.8 FG%, 39.6 3PT%); G Phillip Gilbert, 6-3/Sr. (18.9 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 43.2 FG%, 39.4 3PT%, 75.0 FT%); G James Gillingham (15.0 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 3.3 apg, 42.6 FG%, 33.0 3PT%); F Marcellus Sommerville, 6-7/So. (JC transfer); C Brandyn Heemskerk, 7-0/Jr.

Last regular-season title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Peoria, Ill.

Home court: Carver Arena (11,300).

Website: www.bubraves.com

5. Southern Illinois

Outlook: The Salukis named former assistant Matt Painter to take over the program after Bruce Weber headed up the road to Illinois. The team figures to be in the championship hunt again, even with the departure of Weber and his best two players—guard Kent Williams and forward Jermaine Dearman. The two combined to average 29.8 points, 8.1 rebounds and 4.3 assists last season. That's a big hole to fill, but the Salukis are athletic with Darren Brooks and Stetson Hairston in the lineup. Brooks led the Salukis in assists and steals last season and averaged 12.9 points. That average should rise because he'll be asked to do more. Painter must find a way to get more out of starting center Sylvester Willis, and the Salukis must get greater contributions from former reserves Bryan Turner, Brad Korn and Josh Warren.

Coach: Matt Painter (1st year).

Projected starters: G Darren Brooks, 6-3/Jr. (12.9 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 3.3 apg, 47.5 FG%); G Stetson Hairston, 6-3/Jr. (10.9 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 3.0 apg, 45.5 FG%, 40.5 3PT%); G Bryan Turner, 6-1/Sr. (43.6 3PT%, 77.8 FT%); C Sylvester Willis, 6-7/Sr. (4.1 rpg, 45.7 FG%); F Josh Warren, 6-8/Jr. (57.0 FG%, 50.0 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.

Site: Carbondale, Ill.

Home court: SIU Arena (10,000).

Website: www.siusalukis.com

6. Illinois State

Outlook: The Redbirds' slump to 8-21 last season cost Tim Richardson his job. Porter Moser, a 1990 Creighton graduate, returns to the Valley after winning 54 games the past three seasons at Arkansas State. Moser inherits four starters but will look to transfers Neil Plank (Wisconsin) and Najeeb Echols (Missouri) to fill holes in the lineup. Echols won't be eligible until mid-December and is recovering from knee surgery. The Redbirds lacked punch in the middle because Baboucarr Bojang never regained his junior year form after wrist surgery. Bojang is gone, and the Redbirds don't have anyone to step into the spot. Illinois State returns starters in guards Trey Guidry and Vince Greene and forwards Marcus Arnold and Gregg Alexander. Alexander made 61 3-pointers last season, just two fewer than Guidry. Greene is a sometimes overlooked force at the point. Moser's primary objective is developing consistency.

Coach: Porter Moser (1st year; 54-34 overall, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Vince Greene, 5-9/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 4.4 apg, 51.0 FG%, 45.1 3PT%, 88.4 FT%); G Trey Guidry, 6-2/Jr. (11.1 ppg, 41.7 3PT%, 82.9 FT%); F Gregg Alexander, 6-4/Jr. (11.1 ppg, 42.7 FG%, 45.5 3PT%, 79.2 FT%); F Marcus Arnold, 6-7/So. (50.3FG%); F Neil Plank, 6-5/So. (transfer/Wisconsin).

Last regular-season title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Normal, Ill.

Home court: Redbird Arena (10,200).

Website: www.redbirds.org

7. Evansville

Outlook: The Purple Aces have perhaps the smartest forward in the conference in Clint Cuffie, but it doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that Evansville might have difficulty duplicating the improvement it made in Steve Merfeld's first season. Picked to finish last, Evansville won 12 league games—five more than the previous season—and wound up fifth. Merfeld likely will build this season's team around Cuffie. A first-team Academic All-American, he finished third in the league in scoring. Unfortunately for Cuffie, the Aces don't appear blessed with a strong supporting cast. No other returning player averaged more than 6.0 points. Guards Lucious Wagner and Andre Burton are the other starters who return, but Evansville must replace second-team All-Valley pick Ian Hanavan and center Dan Lytle. Little-used reserves Deywane Lee, Eric Ottens and Drew Gore must step up, and Evansville needs immediate contributions from its recruits.

Coach: Steve Merfeld (12-16, 1 year; 102-73 overall, 6 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Lucious Wagner, 6-4/Jr. (3.2 apg, 41.6 FG%); G Andre Burton, 6-5/Jr. (43.6 FG%, 52.6 3PT%); C Deywane Lee, 6-8/So.; F Clint Cuffie, 6-6/Sr. (16.5 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 50.6 FG%, 44.1 3PT%, 83.1 FT%); F Eric Ottens, 6-7/So.

Last regular-season title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Evansville, Ind.

Home court: Roberts Stadium (11,600).

Website: www.gopurpleaces.com

8. Northern Iowa

Outlook: Greg McDermott hopes his third UNI team gives the program a winning record for the first time in six seasons. The return of five starters and key reserves leads him to believe he has enough depth to trade being a title pretender for a contender's tag. That might be rushing things, but the Panthers should be better. A pair of seniors—undersized forward/center David Gruber and forward Matt Schneiderman—headline the list of returning players that also includes Chris Foster, John Little and Ben Jacobson. Few players in the league get more out of their talent than Gruber, who led UNI in scoring and was second in rebounding. Schneiderman can score inside and outside, and Foster is gritty. He played the second half of last season with a broken bone in his hand. How quickly the new player, who make up half the team, acclimate themselves will determine how much progress the Panthers make.

Coach: Greg McDermott (21-26, 2 years; 156-96 overall, 9 years).

Projected starters: G Chris Foster, 5-10/Jr. (4.3 apg); G Ben Jacobson, 6-3/So. (11.6 ppg, 44.9 FG%, 42.6 3PT%); F/C David Gruber, 6-6/Sr. (13.0 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 61.1 FG%); F Matt Schneiderman, 6-7/Sr. (13.3 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 48.5 FG%, 39.6 3PT%); F John Little, 5-11/So. (40.5 FG%, 43.1 3PT%, 75.7 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1982.

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Home court: UNI-Dome (10,000).

Website: www.unipanthers.com

9. Drake

Outlook: Tom Davis, who used to beat the Bulldogs regularly in his 13 seasons at Iowa, knows what he's getting into in taking over a Drake program whose step back last season led to Kurt Kanaskie's resignation. The combination of guard Luke McDonald's foot injury and a young team hurt the Bulldogs. A healthy McDonald, who led the league in scoring as a sophomore, could make Davis' first season a bit easier. The Bulldogs must depend on many of the sophomores who played last season to replace departed center Greg Danielson, who was arguably the best big man in the league, and J.J. Sola. Lonnie Randolph returns at the point to give the Bulldogs a solid backcourt, and Davis will look to sophomores Quantel Murphy, Josh Powell, Josh Robinson and Sean Tracy for contributions. Sophomore transfers Chaun Brooks and Thomas Diezi figure into the mix.

Coach: Tom Davis (1st year; 543-290 overall, 28 years; 18-11 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Lonnie Randolph, 6-1/Jr. (3.4 apg, 43.0 FG%, 39.0 3PT%); G Luke McDonald, 6-6/Sr. (13.3 ppg, 40.8 FG%, 86.1 FT%); C Thomas Diezi, 6-9/So. (JC transfer); F Josh Robinson, 6-3/So. (41.1 FG%, 43.9 3PT%); F Quantel Murphy, 6-5/So. (57.1 FG%, 55.6 3PT%, 75.0 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1971.

Last NCAA appearance: 1971.

Site: Des Moines, Iowa.

Home court: Drake Knapp Center (7,002).

Website: www.drakebulldogs.org

10. Indiana State

Outlook: Royce Waltman took the Sycamores to consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances in 2000 and 2001, but the past two seasons were dismal. The Sycamores won six games in 2001-02 and seven last season, and the bad news is there's little promise for a dramatic turnaround. That could put the likable Waltman on the hot seat. Much of the problem last season was a lack of offense. Indiana State was last in the league in scoring (56.4 ppg). David Moss, the league's freshman of the year, averaged almost 25 percent of the team's offensive production. He likely will be a marked man if his teammates can't overcome inconsistency and ineptitude this season. None of Moss' teammates averaged more than 9.3 points, and the team lacked an inside presence. It ranked last in rebounding, which is alarming because it doesn't appear the Sycamores did much to shore up that area.

Coach: Royce Waltman (88-91, 6 years; 277-177 overall, 16 years; 5-3 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Wilfred Antoine, 5-11/Sr. (3.2 apg, 38.5 3PT%, 75.0 FT%); G David Moss, 6-5/So. (13.2 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 42.8 FG%, 38.0 3PT%, 80.6 FT%); C Ted Morris, 6-10/So.; F Marcus Howard, 6-2/Sr. (3.2 apg, 75.6 FT%); F Catrel Green, 6-5/Sr. (4.5 rpg).

Last regular-season title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Terre Haute, Ind.

Home court: Hulman Center (10,200).

Website: www.indstate.edu/athletic

Mid-American

Rank 12

By Doug Zaleski, Muncie (Ind.) Star Press

Predictions

East Division

1. Miami
2. Akron
3. Kent State
4. Marshall
5. Ohio
6. Buffalo

*NCAA Tournament pick

West Division

1. Bowling Green*
2. Northern Illinois
3. Western Michigan
4. Ball State
5. Toledo
6. Central Michigan
7. Eastern Michigan

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Derrick Tarver, Akron	6-4	210	Sr.
G	Juby Johnson, Miami	6-5	215	Sr.
G	Turner Battle, Buffalo	6-3	190	Jr.
C	Anthony Kann, W. Michigan	6-7	245	Sr.
F	Marcus Smallwood, N. Illinois	6-6	192	Sr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Keith Triplett, Toledo	6-3	184	Sr.
G	P.J. Smith, N. Illinois	6-4	201	Sr.
G	Johnny Hollingsworth, Akron	6-1	175	Sr.
C	Kevin Netter, Bowling Green	6-10	215	Sr.
F	Cam Echols, Ball State	6-8	221	Sr.

Player of the year

Marcus Smallwood

Marcus Smallwood emerged as a budding talent in his sophomore year and blossomed last season when he averaged a double-double. Smallwood's craftiness inside and his warrior mentality make him hard to defend. "He has a knack for going and getting the ball," says rival coach Tim Buckley of Ball State. "It's difficult to guard him once he gets that loose ball." Smallwood's consistency will be at the heart of the Huskies' success again this season.

Newcomer of the year

Steven Wright, G, Bowling Green

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
East Division				
Kent State [^]	12	6	21	10
Miami	11	7	13	15
Akron	9	9	14	14
Marshall	9	9	14	15
Ohio	8	10	14	16
Buffalo	2	16	5	23
West Division				
Central Michigan*	14	4	25	7
Northern Illinois	11	7	17	14
Western Michigan ^{^^}	10	8	20	11
Ball State	8	10	13	17
Bowling Green	8	10	13	16
Eastern Michigan	8	10	14	14
Toledo	7	11	13	16

*Lost to Duke in NCAA West second round.

[^]Lost to College of Charleston in NIT opening round.

^{^^}Lost to Siena in NIT first round.

EAST DIVISION

1. Miami

Outlook: The RedHawks set a school record last season for fewest turnovers, but don't be fooled into thinking they're a slow-paced team. They tried to pick up the pace on offense, and they'll continue to strive for more of that. Returning starters Juby Johnson, Chet Mason, Danny Horace and Josh Hausfeld accounted for 73 percent of Miami's scoring last season. Johnson, a potential 20-point scorer and lock-down defender, is one of the emerging stars in the league. Horace could become one of the MAC's best inside players if he establishes consistency. Miami needs help to lessen the load for off-injured center Nate VanderSluis, and it should get a lift from Nathan Peavy and Monty St. Clair, a pair of true freshmen who lack experience but are long on potential. Peavy, St. Clair and freshman Eric Van Buskirk should give the RedHawks much-needed height and athleticism in the post.

Coach: Charlie Coles (120-93, 7 years; 212-177 overall, 13 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Josh Hausfeld, 6-3/So. (43.1 FG%, 40.2 3PT%); G Juby Johnson, 6-5/Sr. (14.8 ppg, 43.5 FG%, 74.4 FT%); G Chet Mason, 6-2/Jr. (10.0 ppg, 6.2 rpg); C Nate VanderSluis, 6-11/So. (69.2 FG%); F Danny Horace, 6-5/Jr. (11.5 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 40.2 3PT%, 75.8 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Oxford, Ohio.

Home court: Millett Hall (9,200).

Website: www.muredhawks.com

2. Akron

Outlook: The Zips could boast one of the most talented teams in school history. Successful MAC teams in the past decade have had great guards, and Akron should fit into that category. Shooting guard Derrick Tarver is one of the best scorers in the conference, and point guard Johnny Hollingsworth is a potent offensive force. Last season, they ranked second in the MAC in 1-2 scoring combinations with 38.0 points per game. Big boosts this season could come from forward Andy Hipsher and center Matt Futch. Hipsher has battled a back injury, but he is a valuable scorer and rebounder, and Futch should become one of the top newcomers in the MAC after sitting out his freshman year for academic reasons. Akron's weaknesses last season included interior defense and rebounding, and Futch should help in both areas.

Coach: Dan Hipsher (99-122, 8 years; 128-156 overall, 10 years).

Projected starters: G Johnny Hollingsworth, 6-1/Sr. (17.4 ppg, 4.1 apg, 50.6 FG%, 38.6 3PT%, 77.1 FT%); G Derrick Tarver, 6-4/Sr. (20.6 ppg, 47.2 FG%); C Matt Futch, 6-8/So.; F Andy Hipsher, 6-8/Sr. (5.8 ppg, 4.0 apg, 48.6 FG%, 80.2 FT%); F Darryl Peterson, 6-5/Jr. (13.8 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 48.6 FG%, 80.2 FT%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1986.

Site: Akron, Ohio.

Home court: James A. Rhodes Arena (5,942).

Website: www.goziips.com

3. Kent State

Outlook: Kent State starts the season with several questions. Two years removed from a spot in the Elite Eight, the Golden Flashes must identify whom their top players are and who can recover from surgeries. Potential starting centers Nate Gerwig and John Edwards and shooting guard Eric Haut are coming back from offseason surgeries. Haut is the team's most dependable scoring threat, and Gerwig and Edwards might play together at times. Coach

Jim Christian would like to play an uptempo game, but the Flashes often are too loose with the ball. Forward Bryan Bedford is capable of delivering offensively and will have to provide a strong presence inside. Two young players who might help are forward Cliff Brown and guard Armon Gates. Brown showed at times last season he could be a scoring threat. Gates, a redshirt freshman, was injured after one game last season.

Coach: Jim Christian (21-10, 1 year).

Projected starters: G DeAndre Haynes, 6-2/So. (4.3 apg, 42.5 FG%, 36.4 3PT%); G Eric Haut, 6-0/Sr. (14.1 ppg, 42.9 FG%, 41.6 3PT%, 86.4 FT%); C Nate Gerwig, 6-9/Jr. (4.1 rpg, 64.3 FG%); F Bryan Howard, 6-5/Sr. (61.9 FG%); F Brian Bedford, 6-4/Sr. (51.4 FG%, 40.0 3PT%).

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Kent, Ohio.

Home court: M.A.C. Center (6,327).

Website: dept.kent.edu/athletics

4. Marshall

Outlook: Marshall will try to use a surplus of talent at center and forward to gain matchup advantages in a conference dominated by perimeter players. That means forwards Marvin Black and Mark Patton will be counted on for quality production. Black made a strong transition from junior college; Patton must provide more consistency to allow his athleticism and shooting touch to be positive factors. Center Ardo Armpalu must use his strength to improve his rebounding. A.W. Hamilton, who led the MAC in assists and assists-to-turnover ratio last season, gives the Thundering Herd a good leader at the point, but his field-goal percentage needs a boost. The biggest concern is at shooting guard, where Ronald Blackshear left to enter the NBA draft. Junior Ronny Dawn is the only player returning at the position. He has displayed signs of being a respectable perimeter shooter but has lacked consistency.

Coach: Ron Jirsa (1st year; 35-30 overall, 2 years).

Projected starters: G A.W. Hamilton, 6-3/Jr. (5.5 apg, 40.4 FG%, 62.5 3PT%, 86.7 FT%); G Ronny Dawn, 6-3/Jr. (43.5 FG%, 41.6 3PT%, 71.4 FT%); C Ardo Armpalu, 6-10/Sr. (57.3 FG%); F Marvin Black, 6-7/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 61.3 FG%); F Mark Patton, 6-9/Sr. (48.6 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1995 (Southern).

Last NCAA appearance: 1987.

Site: Huntington, W.Va.

Home court: Cam Henderson Center (9,043).

Website: www.herdzone.com

5. Ohio

Outlook: Returning starters Jaivon Harris, Jeff Halbert and Thomas Stephens combined to average 20 points last season, but Harris might be the only one who remains in the starting lineup. Ohio will undergo a significant roster shuffle with the addition of three transfers who will be among its top seven players. Junior college transfer Terren Harbut will join the starting lineup, and Diamond Gladney, another junior college recruit, will push Stephens for minutes at point guard. Inside, the Bobcats need Delvar Barrett and Clay McGowen to develop. Barrett is a power forward who is comfortable playing with his back to the basket, and McGowen, an Old Dominion transfer, has good athletic ability for a big man.

Coach: Tim O'Shea (31-27, 2 years).

Projected starters: G Thomas Stephens, 6-0/Sr. (40.3 FG%, 77.5 FT%); G Jaivon Harris, 6-5/Sr. (3.1 apg, 42.1 FG%, 36.8 3PT%, 70.0 FT%); F Jeffrey Halbert, 6-5/Sr. (48.3 FG%, 40.0 3PT%, 78.9 FT%); F Delvar Barrett, 6-8/Sr. (46.3 FG%); F Terren Harbut 6-6/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Athens, Ohio.

Home court: Convocation Center (13,000).

Website: www.ohiobobcats.com

6. Buffalo

Outlook: The Bulls will shed their defensive-minded playing style in favor of one more uptempo. The trigger man for a faster offense will be point guard Turner Battle. Buffalo was beginning to show improvement last February when Battle was lost for the season because of a dislocated and fractured finger. Battle is one of five starters who return, including shooting guard Jason Bird, who was the Bulls' best 3-point shooter and averaged almost 15 points in the final month last season. The frontcourt returns intact, with small forward Daniel Gilbert, power forward Mark Bortz and center B.J. Walker.

Coach: Reggie Witherspoon (24-85, 4 years).

Projected starters: G Turner Battle, 6-3/Jr. (12.7 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 4.6 apg, 40.7 FG%); G Jason Bird, 6-4/Jr.; C B.J. Walker, 6-9/So. (4.9 rpg, 50.6 FG%); F Daniel Gilbert, 6-6/Jr. (80.6 FT%); F Mark Bortz, 6-10/Jr. (6.3 rpg, 46.7 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Buffalo.

Home court: Alumni Arena (8,500).

Website: www.buffalobulls.com

WEST DIVISION

1. Bowling Green

Outlook: Dan Dakich has the one problem every coach wants: His team is overrun with talent. The Falcons could go 12 deep in their rotation without losing much effectiveness. The backcourt returns intact with Jabari Mattox at point guard and Ron Lewis at shooting guard. The forward positions will be handled effectively as three players—Germain Fitch, Josh Almonson and John Reimold—battle for minutes. Reimold shot well from the perimeter last season while filling in for Almonson and Fitch, both of whom redshirted because of injuries. Center Kevin Netter could become one of the most feared players in the MAC if he matures. While sitting out last year as a non-qualifier, guard Steven Wright often was the best player on the floor during practices.

Coach: Dan Dakich (102-73, 6 years).

Projected starters: G Jabari Mattox, 6-1/Sr. (4.4 apg, 43.7 FG%); G Ron Lewis, 6-4/So. (12.1 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 41.7 FG%, 79.7 FT%); C Kevin Netter, 6-10/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 54.7 FG%); F John Reimold, 6-6/Jr. (15.0 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 44.7 FG%, 42.0 3PT%, 82.5 FT%); F Josh Almonson, 6-8/Jr.

Last regular-season title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 1968.

Site: Bowling Green, Ohio.

Home court: Anderson Arena (5,000).

Website: www.bgsufalcons.com

2. Northern Illinois

Outlook: The Huskies' major weaknesses are lack of height and lack of a capable big man, but they have the kind of talent at the other positions that has allowed teams to win in the league in the past. A good starting point is small forward Marcus Smallwood, who averaged a double-double last season. Smallwood's play is complemented nicely by guard P.J. Smith, who is a streaky but dangerous perimeter shooting threat, and power forward Rome Sanders' explosive inside play. Anthony Maestranzi and Ryan Paradise will contend at point guard, and another guard to watch is flashy freshman Michael McKinney. The main challenges are to find a point

guard who can lead the team and a center who can do the dirty work inside.

Coach: Rob Judson (29-30, 2 years).

Projected starters: G Anthony Maestranzi, 5-10/So. (42.6 FG%); G P.J. Smith, 6-4/Sr. (14.7 ppg, 45.9 FG%, 41.5 3PT%, 76.6 FT%); C Bryson McKenzie, 6-10/So.; F Marcus Smallwood, 6-6/Sr. (13.3 ppg, 10.1 rpg, 54.8 FG%); F Rome Sanders, 6-7/So. (4.0 rpg, 49.1 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1981 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: DeKalb, Ill.

Home court: Chick Evans Field Center (6,044).

Website: www.niuhuskies.com

3. Western Michigan

Outlook: Former coach Robert McCullum revitalized Western Michigan's program before leaving for South Florida. Now it's up to new coach Steve Hawkins, a McCullum assistant, to keep the Broncos moving forward. Hawkins can start by building around center Anthony Kann, who emerged last season as a rugged presence inside. Guard Ben Reed, the league's freshman of the year in 2002, struggled at times after having major knee surgery. Because of that and the loss of point guard Robby Collum, the Broncos might need freshman guards Mike Jefferson and Silver Laku to contend for significant playing time, if not starting positions. Rickey Willis will be given the first opportunity to win the point guard job.

Coach: Steve Hawkins (1st year).

Projected starters: G Rickey Willis, 6-0/Jr.; G Ben Reed, 6-3/Jr. (4.4 rpg); G Reggie Berry, 6-4/Sr. (35.3 3PT%, 74.4 FT%); C Anthony Kann, 6-7/Sr. (14.4 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 51.5 FG%, 40.9 3PT%); F Mike Williams, 6-8/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 53.4 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1998 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Kalamazoo, Mich.

Home court: University Arena (5,649).

Website: www.wmubroncos.com

4. Ball State

Outlook: Coach Tim Buckley has stockpiled guards who can run the floor and take the ball inside. That means Ball State will employ an uptempo attack and a three-guard lineup. The inside positions are set, with returning starters Cam Echols at power forward and Kevin Cates at center, and they must provide most of the rebounding. Playing time at guard is up for grabs. Two-year starting point guard Matt McCollom probably will move to a wing position, where he'll provide a rebounding presence, so freshman Peyton Stovall and junior college transfer Jesse McClung are the top candidates at the point. Terrance Chapman and New Mexico State transfer Dennis Trammel will compete for time at wing.

Coach: Tim Buckley (54-41, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Jesse McClung, 6-1/So. (JC transfer); G Matt McCollom, 6-2/Jr. (11.9 ppg, 41.9 FG%, 36.1 3PT%, 79.1 FT%); G Dennis Trammel, 6-3/Jr. (transfer/New Mexico State); C Kevin Cates, 6-9/So. (5.1 rpg, 42.1 FG%); F Cam Echols, 6-8/Sr. (13.1 ppg, 8.7 rpg, 48.3 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1998 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Muncie, Ind.

Home court: John E. Worthern Arena (11,500).

Website: www.ballstatesports.com

5. Toledo

Outlook: The Rockets must improve one of the weakest inside attacks in the MAC. Help could come from freshmen Allen Pinson at center and Florentino Valencia at forward. Pinson, who redshirted last season, has a good shooting touch

inside and should provide some help on the boards. Valencia has the physical strength of a veteran and should be one of the top freshmen in the MAC. The backcourt is in good shape behind Keith Triplett and Sammy Villegas. Freshman Rashay Russell has the first crack at starting point guard, which would let Villegas move to his natural position on the wing.

Coach: Stan Joplin (116-89, 7 years).

Projected starters: G Rashay Russell, 5-11/Fr.; G Sammy Villegas, 6-6/So. (10.8 ppg, 3.6 apg, 37.0 3PT%, 82.5 FT%); G Keith Triplett, 6-3/Sr. (16.9 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 48.0 FG%, 42.9 3PT%, 78.7 FT%); C Allen Pinson, 6-9/Fr.; F Florentino Valencia, 6-6/Fr.

Last regular-season title: 1981 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1980.

Site: Toledo, Ohio.

Home court: Savage Hall (9,000).

Website: www.utrockets.com

6. Central Michigan

Outlook: The Chippewas must look for a new way to run their offense after losing standout center Chris Kaman as an early entry in the NBA draft. Point guard T.J. Meerman will run the offense and be asked to become more of a scoring threat. Tony Bowne often was unwilling to shoot, but he is a hard worker and can play the point, wing or small forward. Freshman Dave Hoskins could start at a wing position. The likely replacements for Kaman and power forward Mike Mancel are Gerrit Brightha and Brandon Voorhees, who combined to average 3.0 points and 2.0 rebounds last season. Junior college transfer Steve Harris could play center, and Adam Dentlinger will get a chance to play at forward.

Coach: Jay Smith (75-94, 6 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G T.J. Meerman, 6-3/Sr. (50.0 FG%, 45.3 3PT%); G Tony Bowne, 6-3/Jr. (3.3 apg, 48.3 FG%, 43.1 3PT%, 75.0 FT%); G Dave Hoskins, 6-5/Fr.; C Gerrit Brightha, 6-8/Sr. (66.7 3PT%); F Adam Dentlinger, 6-7/Sr. (67.9 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Home court: Rose Arena (5,200).

Website: www.cmuchippewas.com

7. Eastern Michigan

Outlook: Much will be expected of point guard Michael Ross, shooting guard JoQuan Hart and small forward Markus Austin. Ross emerged as a good player at the point last season when he ranked second in the MAC in assists and fourth in assists-to-turnover ratio, and Hart is a slasher on offense who is capable of averaging 10 to 12 points. Austin is an aggressive rebounder, and he should be the Eagles' top scorer. James Douglas, academically ineligible last season, has the skills to be a fine MAC player, and Ricky Cottrill is a combination guard who can score beyond the 3-point line. The Eagles lost their two big men, so they'll count on unproven players John Bowler and James Jackson to develop inside.

Coach: Jim Boone (23-63, 3 years; 68-129 overall, 7 years).

Projected starters: G Michael Ross, 5-10/Jr. (11.1 ppg, 5.4 apg, 46.2 FG%, 79.4 FT%); G JoQuan Hart, 6-6/Jr. (43.3 FG%); F Markus Austin, 6-6/Jr. (14.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 43.9 FG%); C John Bowler, 6-8/So. (55.7 FG%); F James Jackson, 6-9/Sr. (4.2 rpg, 58.3 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Ypsilanti, Mich.

Home court: Convocation Center (8,824).

Website: www.emich.edu/goeagles

West Coast

Rank 13

By Hank Wesch, San Diego Union-Tribune

Predictions

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Gonzaga* | 6. Santa Clara |
| 2. Pepperdine | 7. Loyola Marymount |
| 3. San Diego | 8. Portland |
| 4. Saint Mary's | *NCAA Tournament pick |
| 5. San Francisco | |

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Blake Stepp, Gonzaga	6-4	192	Sr.
G	Terrance Johnson, Pepperdine	6-5	190	Jr.
F	Ronny Turiaf, Gonzaga	6-10	243	Jr.
F/C	Cory Violette, Gonzaga	6-8	255	Sr.
F	Daniel Kickert, Saint Mary's	6-10	245	So.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Kyle Bailey, Santa Clara	6-2	200	Jr.
G	Alex Acker, Pepperdine	6-5	185	So.
G	John Cox, San Francisco	6-5	195	Sr.
F	Jim Howell, Santa Clara	6-8	230	Sr.
F	Nick Lewis, San Diego	6-10	235	So.

Player of the year

Blake Stepp

Late last season, one topic of conversation was whether Blake Stepp was better than the star who preceded him, Dan Dickau. Stepp is taller, almost as good a passer, has greater range and is better able to create space to shoot. Stepp, voted WCC Player of the Year, scored 25 points and heartbreakingly missed the 5-footer in the double-overtime NCAA loss to Arizona. He beat out big-name, big-school players to join the U.S. team at the Pan American games this summer.

Newcomer of the year

Tyrone Riley, C, San Francisco

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Gonzaga*	12	2	24	9
San Diego**	10	4	18	12
San Francisco	9	5	15	14
Pepperdine	7	7	15	13
Saint Mary's	6	8	15	15
Portland	4	10	11	17
Loyola Marymount	4	10	11	20
Santa Clara	4	10	13	15

*Lost to Arizona in NCAA West second round.

**Lost to Stanford in NCAA South first round.

1. Gonzaga

National rank 5

WHAT WE LIKE: This could prove to be the best of a string of conference-scorching, NCAA Tournament upset-pulling teams to come out of the program dating to 1999. This team has the requisite star guard in West Coast Conference Player of the Year Blake Stepp, plus greater strength up front, more overall depth and experience—four returning starters and only two seniors lost from last year—than any of its predecessors. Two-time all-WCC pick Cory Violette and fellow first-teamer Ronny Turiaf exhibit a take-no-prisoners approach to rebounding and scoring, excel at both and are proven against the best competition the college game has to offer after pushing Arizona to two overtimes in the second round of the 2003 NCAA Tournament. Richard Fox can join Violette and Turiaf on the front line when coach Mark Few wants to go big, or if quickness and an outside threat are needed, Tony Skinner and Kyle Bankhead have starting experience. The Zags do play defense, and program-wide, their past success has bred more success and the expectation of winning anywhere against anyone.

WHAT SCARES US: With as much talent as the Zags have, the problem might be working out the division of labor so one player doesn't try to take on too much of the burden and others not enough. The team lost two redshirt freshmen, Dustin Villepigue and Tyler Amaya, who decided they could get more playing time at Dixie College in Utah. Generally in the past, Zags players have been known for checking egos at the door and creating good team chemistry. But strange things can happen when senior years and potential to leave early for the NBA get thrown into the mix. This squad has five seniors and Turiaf, a junior who has NBA potential.

X-FACTORS: RPI-conscious after perceived NCAA seeding slights, the Zags have a schedule that will test them, which could help or hurt depending on how they handle tough opponents, which include Maryland in the BB&T Tournament and Missouri. The last big test will be against Stanford in the Pete Newell Classic in December shortly before West Coast play begins. Coach Mark Few has stockpiled highly regarded recruits such as Sean Mallon, and it would be no surprise if one or two developed and produced quickly.

A West Coast coach says: They've got a lot of depth. Blake Stepp—I wouldn't say he's a true point guard. He's just a hell of a basketball player. Turiaf is one of the top 12 players in the country. This could be their best team, which is scary. You can spread the floor and beat them off the bounce. Skinner is athletic but not the quickest athletic wing. That's why they play zone. Probably the biggest problem is against pressure. They will struggle against athletic guards. Violette didn't have a great year, but he could break out. I think the problem last year was having too many guys.

Bulldogs data

Coach: Mark Few (105-29, 4 years; NCAA Tournament 5-4).

Assistant coaches: Bill Grier (6 years), Leon Rice (4), Tommy Lloyd (2).

2002-03 record: 24-9. West Coast Conference: 12-2/1st. Lost to

Arizona in NCAA West second round.

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Spokane, Wash.

Home court: The Kennel (4,000).

Website: www.gozags.com

Schedule

N14	TBA*
N21	Idaho
N24	Denver
N29	Georgia
D3	at Washington
D6-7	BB&T Tournament**
D13	Missouri***
D20	Stanford****
D28	Washington State
D31	Eastern Washington
J4	Montana
J8	at Pepperdine
J10	at Loyola Marymount
J15	San Francisco
J17	Saint Mary's
J24	at Portland
J29	at Santa Clara
J31	at San Diego
F5	Pepperdine
F7	Loyola Marymount
F12	at San Francisco
F15	at Saint Mary's
F18	Portland
F21	at Tulsa
F26	San Diego
F28	Santa Clara

*at New York

**at Washington, D.C.

***at Seattle

****at Oakland

Roster

*2002-03 starter; bold names: projected 2003-04 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
20	G	Kyle Bankhead	6-0/193	Sr.	7.5	2.8	2.1	44.0	61.1	40.0
15	G	Colin Floyd	6-2/187	So.	0.6	0.5	—	33.3	75.0	—
34	C	Richard Fox*	6-11/275	Sr.	6.6	3.4	1.0	54.7	70.6	—
22	G	Erroll Knight	6-6/203	So.	Sat out under NCAA transfer rules.					
32	F	Sean Mallon	6-9/208	Fr.	Redshirt was two-time all-state pick.					
14	G	Brian Michaelson	6-3/203	Jr.	0.9	0.6	0.4	38.5	100.0	—
3	F	Adam Morrison	6-8/205	Fr.	Greater Spokane League player of year.					
5	G	Derek Ravio	6-1/155	Fr.	Set season and career scoring records.					
13	G	Josh Reisman	6-1/195	So.	3.2	1.1	0.6	40.9	57.1	30.8
4	G	Tony Skinner*	6-5/198	Sr.	9.2	3.6	1.2	44.2	70.0	41.5
10	G	Blake Stepp*	6-4/192	Sr.	18.0	3.7	6.0	43.1	83.3	40.3
1	F	Ronny Turiaf	6-10/243	Jr.	15.6	6.2	0.6	51.9	76.0	16.7
33	F/C	Cory Violette*	6-8/255	Sr.	11.4	8.0	1.0	50.3	57.4	26.1

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3P%
G	Winston Brooks*	6-0/190	2.9	2.7	2.9	42.3	65.4	32.4
F	Zach Gourde	6-8/249	4.8	2.9	0.5	49.6	67.5	50.0

2. Pepperdine

Outlook: Physical problems that affected three key players effectively drained the promise from last season. This season, the returning talent and coach Paul Westphal's proven touch provide reasons to expect the Waves to battle for the league championship. Pepperdine has a backcourt to make most of the league envious with 2003 WCC Freshman of the Year Alex Acker and Terrance Johnson, who went from the league's top freshman of 2002 to first-team All-WCC. Up front, things will hinge on the return of Glen McGowan, who missed all but one game last season after developing a blood clot in his arm, and newcomers Jesse Pinegar and Yakhoubia Diawara. Pinegar, a transfer from Brigham Young, steps in at center, where the Waves took a big hit last season when starter Will Kimble played in only one game because of a heart problem. Pepperdine has used a variety of presses successfully and an uptempo approach on offense. That won't change.

Coach: Paul Westphal (37-22, 2 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Terrance Johnson, 6-5/Jr. (15.0 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 43.5 FG%, 42.9 3PT%, 77.3 FT%); G Alex Acker, 6-5/So. (13.0 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 3.3 apg, 47.6 FG%, 42.6 3PT%, 81.4 FT%); C Jesse Pinegar, 6-9/So. (transfer/BYU); F Glen McGowan, 6-9/Jr.; F Yakhoubia Diawara, 6-7/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 2002 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Malibu, Calif.

Home court: Firestone Fieldhouse (3,104).

Website: www.pepperdine.edu/athletics

3. San Diego

Outlook: The Toreros are coming off their first NCAA Tournament appearance in 16 years, but the majority of the scoring, rebounding and leadership departed with four seniors. Has USD become the kind of program that reloads after losing players such as center Jason Keep and forward Jason Blair rather than rebuilds? We'll see. Corey Belser, the only returning starter, was possibly the best defender in the league last season but hasn't delivered offensively. Nick Lewis was solid off the bench, but he must show he can be an effective starter. Newcomers will be counted on in all areas: long-range shooting and scoring from Illinois transfer Brett Melton; inside presence from Eastern Oklahoma junior college transfer Brice Vounang; and all-around play from Seward County (Kan.) CC transfer Brandon Gay up front and freshman Michael Hubbard in the backcourt. The Toreros favored a more uptempo game last season and figure to do so again.

Coach: Brad Holland (144-111, 9 years; 167-142 overall, 11 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Corey Belser, 6-6/Jr. (4.5 rpg); G Brett Melton, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/Illinois); C Brice Vounang, 6-8/Jr. (JC transfer); F Nick Lewis, 6-10/So. (45.5 FG%); F Brandon Gay, 6-8/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 1987.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: San Diego.

Home court: Jenny Craig Pavilion (5,100).

Website: www.usdtoreros.com

4. Saint Mary's

Outlook: The Gaels improved by six wins last season and reached .500 for the first time in six years. That's progress. Because a frontcourt that developed steadily during the course of the season returns, more progress is expected. Daniel Kickert

has post moves and a nice shooting touch for a big man and will be more of a force if he bulks up and becomes tougher to muscle. Frederic Adjiwanou needs work on his shooting but showed the potential to complement Kickert. Jonathan Sanders is a better fit here than he was at Colorado State and should be more effective now that the rust of a redshirt season has been worked off. The backcourt is questionable after losing the top three in the rotation, among them WCC defender of the year Anthony Woodards. The retooling starts with Paul Marigney, who redshirted after tearing an ACL but averaged 11.3 points in 2000-01.

Coach: Randy Bennett (24-35, 2 years).

Projected starters: G Paul Marigney, 6-3/Jr.; G E.J. Rowland, 6-1/Jr. (JC transfer); C Daniel Kickert, 6-10/So. (12.7 ppg, 52.0 FG%, 44.7 3PT%, 78.2 FT%); F Frederic Adjiwanou, 6-9/Sr. (9.8 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 44.3 FG%, 36.4 3PT%); F Jonathan Sanders, 6-7/Jr. (40.9 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Moraga, Calif.

Home court: McKeon Pavilion (3,500).

Website: www.smcgaels.com

5. San Francisco

Outlook: The Darrell Tucker years were supposed to be great. But after two winning seasons and a 1-4 WCC Tournament record, the team might get over the locally produced star easily despite the hole in scoring (18.5 ppg) he leaves. Tyrone Riley, the California Community College Player of the Year, was recruited to add scoring punch. A group effort will be required for the 8.1 rebounds Tucker averaged, and returning starters John Cox, James Bayless and Alvin Broussard are expected to be the major contributors. Cox established himself as one of the top 3-point threats in the league last season. In the backcourt, Jason Gaines might have what it takes to run the point, and Michigan transfer Dommanic Ingerson has a reputation as a good shooter.

Coach: Philip Mathews (122-109, 8 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Jason Gaines, 6-1/Jr. (5.4 apg, 77.1 FT%); G John Cox, 6-5/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 47.4 FG%, 40.3 3PT%, 80.2 FT%); C Tyrone Riley, 6-7/Jr. (JC transfer); F Alvin Broussard, 6-6/Sr. (5.2 rpg, 49.0 FG%, 35.7 3PT%); F James Bayless, 6-7/Sr. (10.0 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 54.9 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1981.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: San Francisco.

Home court: War Memorial Gymnasium (5,300).

Website: www.usfdons.com

6. Santa Clara

Outlook: The Broncos desperately missed guard Kyle Bailey, who averaged 13.4 points in 2001-02, after he was lost six games into last season with back and foot problems. The good news is that Bailey is back and ready to lead the team. The Broncos were a surprising 9-4 against a somewhat soft pre-conference schedule but then were roughed up in league play. In Bailey's absence, young guards Ethan Rohde and Brandon Rohe got added playing time, and the experience could pay dividends this season in terms of backcourt depth. The frontcourt has returning starters Jim Howell at center and Jordan Legge at forward. It would be a boost if top recruit Sean Denison, a center from Canada, pans out. The Broncos have had good luck with players from north of the border. Remember Steve Nash and Steve Ross?

Coach: Dick Davey (186-132, 11 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Kyle Bailey, 6-2/Jr. (12.2 ppg, 4.0 rpg); G Ethan Rohde, 6-5/Jr. (40.8 FG%, 41.2 3PT%, 70.4 FT%); G Doron Perkins, 6-2/Jr. (JC transfer); F Jordan Legge, 6-8/Jr. (58.1 FG%); C Jim Howell, 6-8/Sr. (54.2 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Santa Clara, Calif.

Home court: Leavey Center (5,000).

Website: www.santaclarabroncos.com

7. Loyola-Marymount

Outlook: The Lions beat Gonzaga in the regular season and got their first WCC Tournament win in six years last season. But that glimmer of light is at the end of a long tunnel. LMU lost 19 or more games the past four seasons. Youth was a factor last season, and the Lions must hope a bevy of returning players benefited from the experience. Coach Steve Aggers is bringing in two players from the Australian national team, point guard Damian Martin and power forward Matthew Knight, with the intention of addressing weak areas and fostering a feistier attitude. Returning guards Charles Brown and Brandon Worthy averaged double figures in scoring. Forward Sherman Gay led the WCC in blocks with 60. Expect rebounding and defense to be points of emphasis. The Lions were next to last in the league in both.

Coach: Steve Aggers (29-59, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Charles Brown, 5-11/Jr. (11.1 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 4.4 apg, 40.1 FG%, 80.2 FT%); G Brandon Worthy, 6-2/So. (11.0 ppg, 45.7 FG%, 82.3 FT%); C Chris Ayer, 6-10/So. (45.2 FG%); F Sherman Gay, 6-7/Sr. (4.5 rpg, 51.5 FG%); F Keith Kincade, 6-6/Sr. (46.7 FG%, 77.6 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1990.

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Los Angeles.

Home court: Gersten Pavilion (4,156).

Website: www.lmulions.com

8. Portland

Outlook: The operative adjective for the Pilots in recent years has been "pesky". Tough at home but not so tough elsewhere. But the Pilots went beyond pesky last February when they won at Gonzaga. The victory didn't have immediate carry-over value—the Pilots were 1-2 the rest of the season—but it provided vision of what's possible for the five starters and four other lettermen who return. Donald Wilson and Casey Frandsen were honorable mention All-WCC guards, and Adam Quick is a three-year starter who twice led the WCC in assists. Add defensive specialist Eugene Jeter and a couple of new recruits, and coach Michael Holton is well-stocked for the three-guard setup he likes to use. The Pilots will try to compensate with quickness, athleticism and perimeter shooting for what they lack in height and bulk.

Coach: Michael Holton (17-41, 2 years).

Projected starters: G Adam Quick, 6-2/Sr. (4.2 apg, 49.7 FG%, 41.3 3PT%, 83.3 FT%); G Eugene Jeter, 5-10/So. (42.4 FG%, 77.3 FT%); G Donald Wilson, 6-4/So. (11.9 ppg, 43.7 FG%); F Dustin Geddis, 6-7/Sr. (5.9 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 40.4 FG%); F Karl Aaker, 6-5/Jr.

Last regular-season title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Portland.

Home court: Chiles Center (5,000).

Website: www.portlandpilots.com

Horizon

Rank 14

By Rob Demovsky, Green Bay Press-Gazette

Predictions

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Illinois-Chicago* | 6. Wisconsin-Green Bay |
| 2. Butler | 7. Youngstown State |
| 3. Detroit | 8. Wright State |
| 4. Loyola (Ill.) | 9. Cleveland State |
| 5. Wisconsin-Milwaukee | *NCAA Tournament pick |

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Cedrick Banks, Illinois-Chicago	6-2	165	Sr.
G/F	Mike Monserez, Butler	6-6	225	Sr.
F/C	Dylan Page, Wis.-Milwaukee	6-8	225	Sr.
F	Seth Dolibo, Wright State	6-7	225	Sr.
F	Paul McMillan, Loyola	6-6	240	Sr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Martell Bailey, Illinois-Chicago	5-10	170	Sr.
G	Doug Underwood, Youngstown	6-3	177	Jr.
G	Vernard Hollins, Wright State	6-2	210	Sr.
F	Elijah Warren, Detroit	6-5	235	Sr.
C	Mike King, Wis.-Green Bay	6-8	245	Sr.

Player of the year

Cedrick Banks

Banks probably was too good for the Horizon League, but his grades coming out of Chicago's Westinghouse High School scared the big-time programs away. He's NBA material because of the quick release on his jump shot and his relentless quest to get open without the ball. He plays much bigger than his 6-2 size. Even at a slender 165 pounds, he's not afraid to mix it up inside. Few players in the conference can guard him straight up.

Newcomer of the year

Nick Brooks, G/F, Butler

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Butler*	14	2	27	6
Wis.-Milwaukee**	13	3	24	8
Illinois-Chicago^	12	4	21	9
Detroit	9	7	18	12
Loyola (Ill.)	9	7	15	16
Wright State	4	12	10	18
Wis.-Green Bay	4	12	10	20
Youngstown State	4	12	9	20
Cleveland State	3	13	8	22

*Lost to Oklahoma in NCAA East semifinals.

**Lost to Notre Dame in NCAA West first round.

^Lost to Western Michigan in NIT opening round.

1. Illinois-Chicago

Outlook: On pure talent, no one can match the Flames. They have a potential NBA player in Cedrick Banks and the most productive point guard in Martell Bailey. All five starters return from last season's 21-win NIT team, and they're

all seniors. About the only thing the Flames are missing is a 3-point shooter to replace Jonathan Schneiderman. No one in the league can run and jump with the Flames. The only thing that could keep this group of street-type players from winning a title is poor shot selection and shoddy defense, which has been a problem. Athletic ability won't be a problem. In addition to Bailey and Banks, Aaron Carr and Armond Williams also can score. All of them can rebound, including big man Joe Scott. DePaul and Northwestern might win the popularity contest in Chicago, but the Flames might be the city's best team.

Coach: Jimmy Collins (107-101, 7 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Martell Bailey, 5-10/Sr. (10.0 ppg, 8.1 apg, 44.3 FG%, 35.1 3PT%); G Cedrick Banks, 6-2/Sr. (19.0 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 44.5 FG%, 37.7 3PT%); C Joe Scott, 6-9/Sr. (50.9 FG%); F Armond Williams, 6-5/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 63.9 FG%); F Aaron Carr, 6-4/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 43.3 FG%, 39.5 3PT%, 71.6 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Chicago.

Home court: UIC Pavilion (8,000).

Website: www.uicflames.com

2. Butler

Outlook: The Bulldogs' dominance has to end soon, doesn't it? Forward Mike Monserez is the only starter who returns from last season's Sweet 16 team that knocked off Mississippi State and Louisville in the NCAA Tournament. But this program has survived and flourished despite losing two coaches—Barry Collier (Nebraska) and Thad Matta (Xavier)—to bigger programs. Butler is a system program that stresses intense halfcourt defense and a patient offense mixed with 3-point shooting. The Bulldogs' best attribute historically has been their toughness, but they'll have a hard time replacing point guard Brandon Miller. It has been eight years since Butler won fewer than 20 games and 11 years since its last losing season. Coach Todd Lickliter has recruited well—freshman Nick Brooks was one of Illinois' top-ranked high school players—and there's no reason to think Butler will fall far with him coming in.

Coach: Todd Lickliter (53-12, 2 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Avery Sheets, 5-11/Sr. (43.1 FG%, 39.2 3PT%); G Bruce Horan, 6-3/Sr. (41.2 FG%); G/F Mike Monserez, 6-6/Sr. (5.4 rpg, 3.4 apg, 43.9 FG%, 39.3 3PT%, 80.0 FT%); C Andy Grunst, 6-8/Sr.; F Duane Lightfoot, 6-5/Sr. (10.9 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 65.7 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Indianapolis.

Home court: Hinkle Fieldhouse (11,043).

Website: www.butlersports.com

3. Detroit

Outlook: The Titans always are contenders, but this might not be coach Perry Watson's best team. Gone are Willie Green, a second-round NBA pick and the Horizon League Player of the Year, and big man Terrell Riggs. But Watson's formula won't change. He takes Detroit-area players and turns them into tough defenders and gives them freedom on offense. Watson will rely on three seniors—Elijah Warren, Willie Wallace and Rulon Harris, who before last season never

had started a college game. Warren is one of the toughest matchups in the league. He's a force inside, and he also can step out on the perimeter. However, the Titans probably don't have the dominant player they've had in recent years—Detroit players have been league MVPs four of the last five seasons. That could keep them from winning it all.

Coach: Perry Watson (194-113, 10 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Rulon Harris, 6-1/Sr. (41.7 FG%); G James Thues, 5-10/Jr. (transfer/Syracuse); C Willie Wallace, 6-7/Sr. (51.9 FG%); F Elijah Warren, 6-5/Sr. (11.4 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 47.3 FG%, 38.7 3PT%); F Torvoris Baker, 6-7/Sr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Detroit.

Home court: Calihan Hall (8,295).

Website: www.detroittitans.com

4. Loyola (Ill.)

Outlook: The Ramblers haven't contended seriously for a league title in more than 15 years, so why would things change, especially after the loss of leading scorer David Bailey? Maybe because they have perhaps the most punishing forward in the league in Paul McMillan, last season's conference newcomer of the year. McMillan led the league in rebounding and gave the Ramblers their first legitimate scoring big man in years. Or maybe because the league doesn't appear as deep as in recent seasons. Without Bailey, there will be more shots—and perhaps better shots—to go around. Though the Ramblers must find a point guard to replace Bailey, they could be better without him. Jason Telford, who missed last season because of injury, and Terrance Whithers both can run the point. Few Horizon League teams can match McMillan and Demetrius Williams inside.

Coach: Larry Farmer (62-82, 5 years; 157-159 overall, 11 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Louis Smith, 6-4/Sr.; G Majak Kou, 6-5/Fr.; G Terrance Whithers, 5-10/Sr. (40.3 FG%); C Demetrius Williams, 6-9/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 57.7 FG%); F Paul McMillan, 6-6/Sr. (14.6 ppg, 9.0 rpg, 47.3 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1985.

Last NCAA appearance: 1985.

Site: Chicago.

Home court: Joseph J. Gentile Center (5,200).

Website: www.loyolaramblers.com

5. Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Outlook: The Panthers were a missed layup at the buzzer from upsetting Notre Dame for their first NCAA Tournament win last March, but the bulk of that team is gone—except for the guy who missed the shot. Dylan Page likely will live with that burden all season, but he can make up for it by taking over as the Panthers' leader. Page will lead a strong frontcourt that should be boosted by the return of Adrian Tigert and James Wright, who both missed last season because of injuries. Page is perhaps the league's most versatile big man. He can bang inside but is comfortable stepping out on the perimeter. Expectations of coach Bruce Pearl to produce another winner will be high but likely unrealistic considering how much firepower the Panthers lost. Expect junior college transfer guard Ed McCants to contribute right away.

Coach: Bruce Pearl (40-21, 2 years; 271-67 overall, 11 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Projected starters: G Ed McCants, 6-3/Jr. (JC transfer); G Kalombo Kadima, 6-2/Sr.; C Nate Mielke, 6-11/Sr. (4.9 rpg, 58.7 FG%); F/C Dylan Page, 6-8/Sr. (17.7 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 59.5 FG%, 78.3 FT%); F Adrian Tigert, 6-6/So.
Last regular-season title: None.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.
Site: Milwaukee.
Home court: Klotsche Center (5,000).
Website: www.uwmpanthers.com

6. Wisconsin-Green Bay

Outlook: Second-year coach Tod Kowalczyk finally has a roster with more of his players than ones he inherited. Three of the five starters could be Kowalczyk recruits. The two holdovers, Mike King and Matt Rohde, should blend well with the cast of newcomers. It will allow Rohde, who played out of position at point guard last season, to move to shooting guard. After not having a true point guard last season, Kowalczyk brought in two—junior college transfer Javier Mendiburu and freshman Ryan Evanochko. The key to the season could be sophomore Terry Parker, who is expected to mature into a scorer and top defender. The Phoenix will be thin in the middle with King moving to center, but the team has an abundance of possibilities in the backcourt. If things go well, the Phoenix could move into the top half of the league.

Coach: Tod Kowalczyk (10-20, 1 year).
Projected starters: G Matt Rohde, 6-2/Jr. (12.8 ppg, 4.6 apg, 40.1 FG%, 39.0 3PT%, 81.6 FT%); G Javier Mendiburu, 6-5/Jr. (JC transfer); G Terry Parker, 6-2/So.; C Mike King, 6-8/Sr. (11.6 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 46.2 3PT%, 79.4 FT%); F Tyler Koenig, 6-8/Fr.
Last regular-season title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Green Bay.
Home court: Resch Center (10,200).
Website: www.uwgb.edu/athletics

7. Youngstown State

Outlook: The Penguins have made a steady improvement since joining the league three years ago, jumping from ninth to seventh last season. To make another jump, the team needs a big year from junior guard Doug Underwood and must find a point guard to replace Marlon Williamson, the only starter who doesn't return. Underwood can score but needs to improve his shot selection, and big men Brian Radakovich and Adam Baumann must get tougher inside. The Penguins have been solid at home but disastrous on the road. That's where they need an improved inside game because the outside shots don't always fall as easily away from home. Coach John Robic is a strong teacher, but he needs a good season to boost the program's image.
Coach: John Robic (45-70, 4 years).
Projected starters: G Quinn Humphrey, 6-2/Fr.; G Doug Underwood, 6-3/Jr. (14.7 ppg, 42.3 FG%, 41.9 3PT%, 79.5 FT%); G Mike Woodard, 5-11/Fr.; C Adam Baumann, 6-8/Sr. (11.6 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 79.5 FT%); F TeJay Anderson, 6-6/Sr. (5.4 rpg, 41.6 FG%, 40.0 3PT%).
Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Youngstown, Ohio.
Home court: Begly Center (6,500).
Website: www.ywu.edu/sports

8. Wright State

Outlook: The Raiders have a dynamic scoring duo with Seth Doliboa and Vernard Hollins, but they had that last season, and what did it get them? Another losing record and a coaching change. Ed Schilling was fired after a 10-18 year despite having a first-team all-conference selection in Doliboa. Paul Biancardi, a longtime assistant to Jim O'Brien at Boston College and Ohio State, takes over. Any coach would love to inherit Doliboa, a strong-bodied forward who has a perimeter game. But the Raiders haven't had much to go with him. Hollins is a streaky scorer who must improve his shot selection. One of Biancardi's first tasks will be establishing an identity, something the Raiders never had under Schilling. With a strong fan base and a nice arena, Wright State is a sleeping giant, but it must be awakened.

Coach: Paul Biancardi (1st year).
Projected starters: G Trent Vaughn, 6-3/Sr. (40.4 FG%); G Vernard Hollins, 6-2/Sr. (19.9 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 4.1 apg, 47.8 FG%); G Malcolm Andrews, 5-8/Jr.; F Seth Doliboa, 6-7/Sr. (22.3 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 44.6 FG%, 38.1 3PT%, 76.5 FT%); F Braden Bushman, 6-4/Sr. (54.5 FG%).
Last regular-season title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Dayton, Ohio.
Home court: Ervin J. Nutter Center (11,000).
Website: www.wsuraiders.com

9. Cleveland State

Outlook: The Rollie Massimino era is over. The former Villanova and UNLV coach was a flop in Cleveland, where his seven seasons produced just two winning teams and no postseason berths. The program is now in the hands of Mike Garland, a former Michigan State assistant who will use the same approach that helped Stan Heath and Tom Crean—other former Spartans assistants—build successful programs. Garland needs to get the community interested. The 13,000-seat Convocation Center rarely had more than a couple of thousand fans in it during games in Massimino's final two seasons. Garland reinstated guard Modibo Niakate, an all-newcomer team member from a year ago who was suspended late last season. Omari Westley should contribute right away. Walter Waters was a late recruit who initially committed to Pittsburgh. Waters can be an overpowering low-post scorer if he stays in shape. He should help in a big way.
Coach: Mike Garland (1st year).
Projected starters: G Walt Chavis, 5-11/Jr. (4.9 apg); G Modibo Niakate, 6-1/Sr., 11.9 ppg, 43.8 FG%, 44.4 3PT%, 76.3 FT%; C Walter Waters, 6-9/Fr.; F Omari Westley, 6-6/Jr. (JC transfer); F Patrick Tatham, 6-7/Fr.
Last regular-season title: 1993 (Mid-Continent).
Last NCAA appearance: 1986.
Site: Cleveland.
Home court: Henry J. Goodman Arena (13,610).
Website: www.csu vikings.com

Metro Atlantic

Rank 15

By Mike Harrington, Buffalo News

Predictions

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Manhattan* | 7. St. Peter's |
| 2. Niagara | 8. Canisius |
| 3. Siena | 9. Rider |
| 4. Fairfield | 10. Loyola (Md.) |
| 5. Iona | *NCAA Tournament pick |
| 6. Marist | |

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Luis Flores, Manhattan	6-2	195	Sr.
G	Keydren Clark, St. Peter's	5-8	165	So.
G	Jerry Johnson, Rider	6-0	170	Jr.
C	Deng Gai, Fairfield	6-9	250	Jr.
F	Juan Mendez, Niagara	6-7	230	Jr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	DeShaun Williams, Iona	6-3	205	Sr.
G/F	Tremmell Darden, Niagara	6-4	192	Sr.
C	James Reaves, Niagara	6-8	250	Sr.
F	Dave Holmes, Manhattan	6-7	225	Sr.
F	Michael Haddix, Siena	6-7	235	So.

Player of the year

Luis Flores

A leader-by-example, he's no rah-rah guy. He just gets it done. Flores averaged 24.6 points last season and hit 90.2 percent from the free-throw line. He was ninth in 3-point shooting in the conference and led in steals. Flores worked hard on his outside shooting, but his uncanny ability to drive and draw contact puts him a cut above the rest. When the Jaspers need a basket, he produces even though everyone in the gym knows who's getting the ball.

Newcomer of the year

Terrance Mouton, G, Rider

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Manhattan*	14	4	23	7
Fairfield	13	5	19	12
Siena^	12	6	21	11
Niagara	12	6	17	12
Iona	11	7	17	12
Marist	8	10	13	16
Rider	7	11	12	16
St. Peter's	6	12	10	19
Canisius	6	12	10	18
Loyola (Md.)	1	17	4	24

*Lost to Syracuse in NCAA East first round.

^Lost to UAB in NIT second round.

1. Manhattan

Outlook: It's the Jaspers' title to lose. If they repeat in the MAAC this season, don't expect them to get the 14th seed they got in the 2003 NCAA Tournament. Manhattan got a raw deal with a first-round game against eventual champion Syracuse, and that could provide Bobby Gonzalez's club with the motivation to cut down the conference nets again. The Jaspers have the lineup to do it. Luis Flores is a solid bet to become the conference's first repeat player of the year since 1990, and Mike Konovelchick is a deadeye 3-point shooter. Sophomore Kenny Minor had some big moments as a freshman and will become more of a regular point guard. Dave Holmes and Jason Benton figure to make major contributions, and the additions of transfer Peter Mulligan and freshmen Guy Ngarndi and Oktay Yilmaz should help lessen the impact of Jared Johnson's departure. The Jaspers were the MAAC's top scoring team last year and its best defensive squad. They'll be tough to beat.

Coach: Bobby Gonzalez (69-46, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Luis Flores, 6-2/Sr. (24.6 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 45.5 FG%, 38.6 3PT%, 90.2 FT%); G Kenny Minor, 5-9/So.; C Jason Benton, 6-6/Sr. (57.9 FG%); F Dave Holmes, 6-7/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 47.3 FG%, 81.4 FT%); F Peter Mulligan, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/Maryland-Baltimore County).

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Riverdale, N.Y.

Home court: Draddy Gym (3,000).

Website: www.gojaspers.com

2. Niagara

Outlook: Coach Joe Mihalich has gone to the conference semifinals in four of his five years as coach and should get at least that far again. But what he really wants is to end his school's NCAA Tournament drought at 34 years. The Purple Eagles have the conference's best front line with James Reaves and Juan Mendez. Tremmell Darden is one of the league's best leapers, and J.R. Duffey, who sat out last year, should be a big boost. Alvin Cruz, James Mathis and David Brooks head a solid backcourt. Freshman Lorenzo Miles will be a nice addition as a backup to Cruz, an area Niagara struggled with last season. The team needs to shore up its league-low free throw shooting, though, and play better straight-up defense. But the big front line can wear down teams, and NU can survive high-scoring shootouts better than most teams that specialize in low-post offense.

Coach: Joe Mihalich (84-63, 5 years).

Projected starters: G Alvin Cruz, 6-1/Jr. (5.8 apg, 35.7 3PT%); G James Mathis, 6-4/So. (46.7 FG%); C James Reaves, 6-8/Sr. (11.7 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 49.2 FG%); G/F Tremmell Darden, 6-4/Sr. (17.3 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 48.0 FG%); F Juan Mendez, 6-7/Jr. (18.4 ppg, 9.0 rpg, 60.2 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1970.

Site: Niagara, N.Y.

Home court: Gallagher Center (2,400).

Website: www.purpleeagles.com

3. Siena

Outlook: Last season, coach Rob Lanier's team won 21 games and got to the NIT, posting the MAAC's first multiple wins in that tournament since 1995. This season, Lanier needs some answers at point guard. The Saints struggled

there most of last season, settling on out-of-position senior Prosper Karangwa to take the load. Siena's top two returning guards are junior Tommy Mitchell and sophomore Antoine Jordan, neither of whom is comfortable at the point. A big early-season question will be what contributions Lanier gets from freshman guards Mike Beers and Daryl Gladden. Up front, things revolve around sophomore Michael Haddix, who finished second in scoring and first in rebounding among MAAC freshmen. Largely because of Haddix, Siena was the MAAC's runaway leader in rebound margin. Senior Justin Miller, junior Brent Sniezyk and freshman Joel Green also might contribute.

Coach: Rob Lanier (38-30, 2 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Tommy Mitchell, 6-3/Jr. (13.6 ppg, 36.7 3PT%, 80.7 FT%); G Jamal Jackson, 5-10/Sr.; F/G Antoine Jordan, 6-4/So. (5.3 rpg, 43.8 FG%, 40.4 3PT%, 76.0 FT%); C Justin Miller, 6-8/Sr. (4.8 rpg, 41.6 FG%); F Michael Haddix, 6-7/So. (13.8 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 52.1 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2001.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Loudonville, N.Y.

Home court: Pepsi Arena (15,500).

Website: www.sienasaints.com

4. Fairfield

Outlook: MAAC Defensive Player of the Year Deng Gai could keep the Stags in the mix this season. He led the Stags in scoring and rebounding and was fourth in the nation in blocks. Terrence Todd, Tyquawn Goode and Kudjo Sogadzi have played in the backcourt and need to score more, and plenty of offense could come from two high-scoring freshmen, Mike Van Schaick and Marty O'Sullivan. Thanks to Gai and coach Tim O'Toole's physical style, the Stags are the most rough-and-tumble team in the MAAC. You won't score much against them, but the question is whether they'll score enough to beat you.

Coach: Tim O'Toole (69-75, 5 years).

Projected starters: G Terrence Todd, 6-1/So. (3.2 apg, 35.9 3PT%, 78.2 FT%); G Kudjo Sogadzi, 6-1/Jr. (75.4 FT%); G Tyquawn Goode, 5-7/Jr. (3.7 apg, 43.7 FG%, 44.6 3PT%); C Deng Gai, 6-9/Jr. (12.8 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 3.8 bpg, 54.1 FG%, 37.5 3PT%); F Marty O'Sullivan, 6-6/Fr.

Last regular-season title: 1996 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Fairfield, Conn.

Home court: Arena at Harbor Yards (9,500).

Website: www.fairfieldstags.com

5. Iona

Outlook: Without Courtney Fields, the Gaels take a backcourt approach into the season, a first in six years under Jeff Ruland. The great unknown is senior DeShaun Williams, who has one season of eligibility left; he sat out last season after transferring from Syracuse. Williams averaged 15.9 points for the Orange in 2001-02 and will be asked to put up big numbers for the Gaels. Ruland got contributions in the backcourt last year from Marvin McCullough, Ricky Soliver and Steve Burt. Up front, Greg Jenkins and Steve Smith must come up big.

Coach: Jeff Ruland (88-65, 5 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G DeShaun Williams, 6-3/Sr. (transfer/Syracuse); G Marvin McCullough, 6-0/So. (4.0 apg, 38.3 3PT%); G Ricky Soliver, 6-3/So. (10.2 ppg, 3.4 apg); F Greg Jenkins 6-9/Sr. (13.4 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 55.6 FG%); F Steve Smith, 6-6/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 60.0 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2001 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: New Rochelle, N.Y.

Home court: Mulcahy Center (2,611).

Website: www.iona.edu/gaels

6. Marist

Outlook: Coach Dave Magarity enters his 18th season with seven new players, including five freshmen. His teams traditionally like to run the floor and shoot the 3-pointer. In recent years, however, the Red Foxes have struggled defensively. Some of the newcomers should help in that area, but all the new faces leave Marist as the team's unknown. Junior guard Brandon Ellerbee and senior forward Dennis Young are the only returning players who scored in double figures last season. Transfer Will McClurkin should help the team's low-post defense. Freshmen Jared Jordan and Will Whittington will compete for time in the backcourt, as will junior college transfer Pierre Monagan. Freshmen Ryan Stilphen and Kerry Parks also should help up front.

Coach: Dave Magarity (247-237, 17 years; 307-313 overall, 22 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Brandon Ellerbee, 5-11/Jr. (10.6 ppg, 3.8 apg, 37.4 3PT%); G Jared Jordan 6-2/Fr.; F Dennis Young 6-8/Sr. (10.0 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 47.8 FG%, 40.0 3P%); C Will McClurkin 6-9/Jr. (transfer/Maryland-Baltimore County); F Kerry Parks, 6-7/Fr.

Last regular-season title: 2002 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1987.

Site: Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Home court: McCann Center (3,944).

Website: www.goredfoxes.com

7. St. Peter's

Outlook: After back-to-back 4-24 seasons, the Peacocks improved to 10-19 last season and won six league games. The MAAC's most rapidly rising program is ready to push the top half of the league this season. Guard Keydren Clark burst on the scene last year as one of the nation's top freshmen. He led the MAAC in scoring at 24.9 points and was a runaway leader in 3-point baskets with 109. The Peacocks should be able to give Clark plenty of help because immediate contributions are expected from transfers Ron Yates and Jamie Sowers. The newcomers should help a porous defense that was the MAAC's worst last season. St. Peter's won't have much problem scoring, but its climb up the conference ladder will rest on its ability to rebound and defend.

Coach: Bob Leckie (18-67, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Keydren Clark 5-8/So. (24.9 ppg, 4.2 apg, 39.2 3PT%, 85.3 FT%); G Corey Hinnant, 6-0/Jr. (80.6 FT%); G/F Ron Yates 6-5/Jr. (transfer/Maryland-Baltimore County); C Amir Ali 6-11/Sr. (48.1 FG%); F Jamie Sowers, 6-7/Jr. (transfer/Wichita State).

Last regular-season title: 1987.

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Jersey City, N.J.

Home court: Yanitelli Center (3,200).

Website: www.spc.edu

8. Canisius

Outlook: This was a team that posted its second straight 10-win season and finished tied for eighth in the MAAC last year—although it led Saint Joseph's in the second half and was tied with Syracuse with 7 minutes left. But the Griffs lost Brian Dux and Hodari Mallory, two of the conference's top 10 scorers. So are they destined for another bottom-barrel finish? Not necessarily.

Canisius will get back Toby Foster and Dewitt Doss; both had medical redshirts last season. It will have Jon Ferris, who was one of the MAAC's top sixth men last year, and Kevin Downey and Yaku Moton-Spruill, who have shown offensive ability. Canisius has dropped 16 games by six points or fewer in the last two seasons. A few defensive stops or made free throws could be the difference this season. Looking for a sleeper to rise higher than expected? This is the choice.

Coach: Mike MacDonald (78-95, 6 years).

Projected starters: G Dewitt Doss, 5-10/Jr.; G Kevin Downey, 6-3/So. (3.1 apg, 41.9 FG%, 35.9 3PT%); C Yaku Moton-Spruill, 6-8/Sr. (4.5 rpg, 52.0 FG%); F Toby Foster, 6-6/Sr.; F Richard Jones, 6-6/Jr. (6.1 rpg).

Last regular-season title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Buffalo.

Home court: Koessler Center (2,100).

Website: www.gogriffs.com

9. Rider

Outlook: The Broncos never have gotten past the MAAC tournament quarterfinals, and junior guard Jerry Johnson will bear the responsibility of trying to lead them where they've never been. Laurence Young, Robert Taylor and Edwin Muniz also return to the starting lineup. At least one must help take the scoring load off Johnson, who was the target of numerous double-teams last year. The Broncos' newcomers give the team some hope. Terrance Mouton averaged 24 points as a high school senior, and Steve Castleberry played at a junior college after leaving Marist. He should join Lou Thompson and round out the frontcourt. These players don't know the Broncos' history, but they hope to improve on it.

Coach: Don Harnum (91-79, 6 years).

Projected starters: G Jerry Johnson, 6-0/Jr. (18.3 ppg, 3.1 apg, 85.1 FT%); G Laurence Young, 6-3/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 4.3 rpg); G Robert Taylor 6-2/Jr. (13.1 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 44.8 FG%, 40.8 3PT%); C Steve Castleberry, 7-0/Jr. (JC transfer); F Edwin Muniz, 6-7/So. (45.9 FG%, 73.0 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Lawrenceville, N.J.

Home court: Alumni Gym (1,650).

Website: www.gobroncs.com

10. Loyola (Md.)

Outlook: This is not the choice for a sleeper pick. Loyola won 15 games combined over the last three seasons and averaged 59 points during last season's 4-24 disaster. It turned the ball over nearly 18 times a game. The Greyhounds have been above .500 just once in 14 seasons in the MAAC. They won't get close this season. Junior guard Lucious Jordan was the Greyhounds' best player, but he transferred. Donovan Thomas, the team's second-leading scorer, also transferred. There are high hopes for freshman guards Michael Tuck, Kenny Burr and Shane James.

Coach: Scott Hicks (15-70, 3 years; 26-87 overall, 4 years).

Projected starters: G Charlie Bell, 6-5/Sr. (75.3 FT%); G Jamaal Dixon, 6-2/Fr.; C Irakli Nijaradze 6-10/Jr. (40.0 FG%, 50.0 3P%, 71.4 FT%); F Bobby Bossman, 6-5/So.; F Bernard Allen, 6-5/Jr. (7.0 rpg, 74.5 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Baltimore.

Home court: Reitz Arena (3,000).

Website: www.loyolagreyhounds.com

Southern

Rank 16

By Rick Nelson, The (Charleston, S.C.)

Post and Courier

Predictions

North Division	South Division
1. East Tennessee State	1. Coll. of Charleston*
2. Chattanooga	2. Davidson
3. UNC Greensboro	3. Georgia Southern
4. Appalachian State	4. Wofford
5. Western Carolina	5. Furman
6. Elon	6. The Citadel

*NCAA Tournament pick

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tim Smith, E. Tennessee St.	5-9	155	So.
G	Kevin Martin, Western Carolina	6-7	185	Jr.
F	Zakee Wadood, E. Tennessee St.	6-5	220	Sr.
F	Thomas Mobley, Charleston	6-6	220	Sr.
F	Ashley Champion, Chattanooga	6-6	235	Sr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Ray Trowell, Chattanooga	5-9	170	Sr.
G	Brendan Winters, Davidson	6-5	190	So.
F	Tyler Berg, Wofford	6-9	225	So.
F	Conor Grace, Davidson	6-8	215	Jr.
F	Frank Bennett, Ga. Southern	6-7	225	Sr.

Player of the year

Zakee Wadood

Few Southern Conference players have Wadood's scoring ability (14.7 ppg), and fewer have his rebounding skills (8.1 rpg). He is the perfect inside complement to pesky point guard Tim Smith. Wadood can slash to the basket, post up or hit the midrange jumper. The rest of the nation watched him drop 20 points and 14 rebounds on Wake Forest last season in the NCAA Tournament. He should make life even tougher for conference foes this season.

Newcomer of the year

Robert Swain, G, College of Charleston

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
North Division				
Appalachian State	11	5	19	10
East Tennessee St.*	11	5	20	11
Davidson	11	5	17	10
Western Carolina	6	10	9	19
VMI	3	13	10	20
UNC Greensboro	3	13	7	22
South Division				
Coll. of Charleston^	13	3	25	8
Chattanooga	11	5	21	9
Georgia Southern	8	8	16	13
Wofford	8	8	14	15
Furman	8	8	14	17
The Citadel	3	13	8	20

*Lost to Wake Forest in NCAA East first round.

^Lost to Providence in NIT second round.

NORTH DIVISION

1. East Tennessee State

Outlook: The Buccaneers converted the league's best starting lineup into a tournament title last season, but they enter this season with a new coach after Ed DeChellis bolted for Penn State. Former UAB coach Murry Bartow inherits a team that finished in the top five in the nation in scoring and steals. The Bucs return all five starters and eight of their top nine players. ETSU has the league's best inside-outside combination in talented forward Zakee Wadood and lightning-quick point guard Tim Smith. Jerald Fields gives the Bucs the conference's best forward duo, and center Brad Nuckles is a budding star. ETSU needs more perimeter help from guards Ben Rhoda, James Anthony and newcomer Travis Strong. If Bartow can manage all these pieces, the Bucs could be dancing again.

Coach: Murry Bartow (1st year; 103-83 overall, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Tim Smith, 5-9/So. (15.3 ppg, 3.7 apg, 44.1 FG%, 42.4 3PT%); G Ben Rhoda, 6-4/So. (51.5 FG%); G James Anthony, 6-2/Jr. (41.6 FG%, 37.0 3PT%); F Jerald Fields, 6-7/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 54.6 FG%, 36.4 3PT%); F Zakee Wadood, 6-5/Sr. (14.7 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 2.3 bpg, 50.2 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1992 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Johnson City, Tenn.

Home court: Memorial Center (13,000).

Website: www.etsubucs.com

2. Chattanooga

Outlook: There are several reasons coach Jeff Lebo pulled his name out of the job search at Iowa State, but the biggest might be that he's closer to making the NCAA Tournament at Chattanooga. The uptempo Mocs return most of a team that reached the conference tournament finals. But the Mocs move to the North Division, where they must go through ETSU for a division title. Starters Tim Parker and Aaron Morgan and key reserve Nick Benson are gone, but forwards Ashley Champion and Alphonso Pugh join wing Jason Rogan and point guard Ray Trowell to form a talented foursome. The additions of 6-7 Chris Brown, 6-9 Lithuanian Mindaugas Katelinas and 6-10 freshman Matt Malone bolster the frontcourt.

Coach: Jeff Lebo (21-9, 1 year; 96-52 overall, 5 years).

Projected starters: G Ray Trowell, 5-9/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 6.0 apg, 45.2 FG%, 36.7 3PT%, 78.4 FT%); G Jason Rogan, 6-2/Sr. (13.9 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 45.5 FG%, 77.8 FT%); G Bryan Richardson, 6-5/Jr. (36.5 3PT%); F Ashley Champion, 6-6/Sr. (15.4 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 57.4 FG%); F Alphonso Pugh, 6-6/So., (58.3 FG%, 66.7 3PT%).

Last regular-season title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Chattanooga, Tenn.

Home court: The McKenzie Arena (11,218).

Website: www.gomocs.com

3. UNC Greensboro

Outlook: Ray Bristow, forced to play the point as a freshman, is back to lead what the Spartans hope will be a turnaround, and he'll

get help from Ronnie Taylor, who returns from a broken leg. The Spartans hope Taylor's presence will make a difference after they went 2-12 in games decided by five points or less last season. Former Clemson starter Dwon Clifton should provide a spark at forward. Recruits Jelani Lawrence, Ricky Hickman and Tony Wilson will contribute.

Coach: Fran McCaffery (61-58, 4 years; 110-97 overall, 7 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Ray Bristow, 6-0/So. (3.3 apg, 42.3 FG%); G Jay Joseph, 6-4/Sr. (14.6 ppg, 45.6 FG%, 37.8 3PT%); G Rodney Blackstock, 6-5/Jr.; F Dwon Clifton, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/Clemson); F Ronnie Burrell, 6-8/Jr. (4.7 rpg, 42.0 FG%, 40.0 3PT%, 78.9 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1996 (Big South).

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Greensboro, N.C.

Home court: Fleming Gymnasium (2,320).

Website: www.uncgspartans.com

4. Appalachian State

Outlook: The Mountaineers were the league's surprise team last season, winning a share of the division title and earning Houston Fancher coach of the year honors and a contract extension. It will be a tough act to repeat without all-conference guards Graham Bunn and Shawn Hall. But the cupboard isn't completely bare. Junior Corwin Davis provides a steady if unspectacular option at point guard, but the job could fall to a freshman. Matt Jones, son of former NBA player Bobby Jones, and Chris McFarland are threats on the wing, and guard Noah Brown is back after breaking his hand last season. Jonathan Mitchell and Lennox Marshall must provide rebounding for the relatively small lineup.

Coach: Houston Fancher (40-48, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Corwin Davis, 5-11/Jr. (75.0 FT%); G Noah Brown, 6-1/Sr.; F Chris McFarland, 6-5/Jr. (11.3 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 47.3 FG%, 75.0 FT%); F Jonathan Mitchell, 6-6/Sr. (5.9 rpg, 62.9 FG%); F Clint Deas, 6-8/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Boone, N.C.

Home court: Holmes Convocation Center (8,325).

Website: www.goasu.com

5. Western Carolina

Outlook: Almost every conversation about the Catamounts starts and ends with junior Kevin Martin, who was among the nation's top scorers his first two seasons. Unfortunately for Martin, none of his teammates are double-figure scorers. Freshman playmaker Kyle Greathouse, a left-hander, can score and pass, meaning he should give the team another offensive option. Guards Corey Muirhead and Emre Atsur played better down the stretch last season and could provide more perimeter punch. Coach Steve Shurina compares junior college transfer Brandon Weaver to the best athletes in the conference. Forward Rans Brempong is closing in on the league's career blocked shots record, which is handy for a team that doesn't always play good defense. Junior college transfer Lunzaya Nlandu (6-7, 240) should help with rebounding.

Coach: Steve Shurina (27-60, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Kyle Greathouse, 6-0/Fr.; G Kevin Martin, 6-7/Jr. (22.8 ppg, 42.4 FG%, 88.3 FT%); G Emre Atsur, 6-3/Sr. (35.6 3PT%, 75.9 FT%); F Rans Brempong, 6-8/Sr. (6.3 rpg, 2.5 bpg, 51.3 FG%); F Alex Osipovitch, 6-9/Sr. (40.7 FG%, 75.0 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Cullowhee, N.C.

Home court: Ramsey Center (7,826).

Website: www.catamountsports.com

6. Elon

Outlook: The Phoenix leave their Big South roots behind and enter the league with a new coach, longtime Wake Forest assistant Ernie Nestor. One of Nestor's toughest tasks will be injecting life into Elon's anemic offense, which averaged just 63.2 points last season with only one player, Scottie Rice, putting up double figures. Nearly everyone is back, including center Rasmi Gamble, who showed flashes of being a good inside player as a rookie. Point guard Steve Harvin returns, but newcomers Montell Watson and Ryan Jones likely will join Rice in the three-guard lineup.

Coach: Ernie Nestor (1st year; 68-81 overall, 5 years).

Projected starters: G Montell Watson, 6-1/Fr.; G Scottie Rice, 6-4/So. (11.8 ppg, 40.8 FG%, 40.9 3PT%); G Ryan Jones, 6-3/Fr.; C Rasmi Gamble, 6-9/So. (5.3 rpg, 53.3 FG%); F Jackson Atoyebi, 6-6/Jr. (4.0 rpg, 53.2 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1971 (Carolinas Conference).

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Elon, N.C.

Home court: Koury Center (1,768).

Website: www.elon.edu/athletics

SOUTH DIVISION

1. College of Charleston

Outlook: Tom Herrion proved last season there was life after longtime coach John Kresse, leading Charleston to a divisional title and a victory at Kent State in the NIT. For an encore, Herrion must replace league player of the year Troy Wheless and get more consistent post play. Point guard A.J. Harris finished second in career assists at Charleston, but he was not a scorer, a situation that Herrion hopes to solve with newcomer Dontaye Drayton. Connecticut transfer Robert Swain and combo guard Tony Mitchell will have to score. Forward Thomas Mobley is a potential candidate for player of the year, and guard Stanley Jackson emerged as a future star. Rebounding and post depth have been problems, even though center Mike Benton can be dominating at times.

Coach: Tom Herrion (25-8, 1 year).

Projected starters: G Tony Mitchell, 5-11/Jr. (41.1 3PT%, 81.3 FT%); F Thomas Mobley, 6-6/Sr. (13.8 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 46.2 FG%, 45.0 3PT%, 77.8 FT%); G Stanley Jackson, 6-2/Jr. (49.5 FG%, 38.5 3PT%); C Mike Benton, 6-9/Sr. (6.5 rpg, 2.3 bpg, 60.5 FG%); F Joe Weurding, 6-6/Sr. (39.2 3PT%).

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Charleston, S.C.

Home court: Kresse Arena (3,500).

Website: cougars.cofc.edu

2. Davidson

Outlook: The Wildcats switch divisions this season, adding heat to an already intense rivalry with Charleston. Coach Bob McKillop's biggest task is to replace the backcourt tandem of Wayne Bernard and Peter Anderer. Super sophomores Brendan Winters, Ian Johnson and Matt McKillop form the core of a team that also includes tough defender Nick Booker and key transfers Kenny Grant from Lafayette and Logan Kosmalski from Baylor. Grant,

an all-freshman pick in the Patriot League, will take over at the point. Kosmalski is a bigger version of his brother, former Wildcat and all-conference pick Landry Kosmalski. Davidson's roster, already featuring representatives from Ireland, Finland and Germany, gained another international member when 6-6 forward Chris Frederick came over from England.

Coach: Bob McKillop (222-181, 14 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Kenny Grant, 6-1/So. (transfer/Lafayette); G Matt McKillop, 6-1/So. (41.3 FG%, 41.7 3PT%); G Brendan Winters, 6-5/So. (12.4 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 49.1 FG%, 50.5 3PT%, 76.9 FT%); F Ian Johnson, 6-9/So. (12.4 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 54.0 FG%, 85.4 FT%); F Conor Grace, 6-8/Jr. (8.6 rpg, 45.5 FG%, 36.6 3PT%, 80.0 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Davidson, N.C.

Home court: Belk Arena (5,700).

Website: www.davidson.edu/athletics

3. Georgia Southern

Outlook: The high-scoring Eagles bring back nearly everyone, but they might have suffered the league's biggest individual blow with the loss of career scoring leader Julius Jenkins. But Jenkins' departure and the emergence of an inside game could give coach Jeff Price his most balanced team in five years. Forward Frank Bennett led the league with eight double-doubles last season, and Price wants him to get more touches. The Eagles need defensive improvement from forward Jean Francois and post man Courtney Joseph. There is depth inside with the addition of JC transfer Chris Foster. Point guard Terry Williams is skilled at either guard spot, but redshirt freshman Donte Gennie could end up running the offense. In the end, it comes down to defense for Georgia Southern. With it, the Eagles are among the best teams in the league. Without it, they could step backward.

Coach: Jeff Price (63-52, 4 years).

Projected starters: G Terry Williams, 6-1/Jr. (3.8 apg); G Kordel Gibson, 6-4/Sr. (43.8 FG%, 37.6 3PT%); F Jean Francois, 6-5/Jr. (11.1 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 53.2 FG%); F Frank Bennett, 6-7/Sr. (14.7 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 58.1 FG%); F Courtney Joseph, 6-9/Jr. (51.0 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1992 (TAAC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Statesboro, Ga.

Home court: Hanner Fieldhouse (4,378).

Website: www.georgiasoutherneagles.com

4. Wofford

Outlook: Mike Young took up where former coach Richard Johnson left off, coaxing more out of the Terriers than anyone thought possible. This season, though, Young is without point guard Mike Lenzly and swingman Lee Nixon. As a result, there's no go-to scorer. The perimeter scoring load likely will fall to Adrian Borders and Justin Stephens, who missed nearly all of last season because of a knee injury. Stephens looks ready to go, but freshman Curtis Ingram and sophomore Byron Fields are ready if needed. Borders, the league's triple jump and long jump champion, gives the Terriers quickness in the backcourt. Greg Taylor, a transfer from South Carolina, brings needed toughness. Forward Grant Sterley graduated, but Wofford's post play could be its best in years with Sam Daniels, Tyler Berg and Howard Wilkerson. All three must address the team's rebounding problems.

Coach: Mike Young (14-15, 1 year).

Projected starters: G Justin Stephens, 6-2/Jr. (44.4 3PT%); G Adrien Borders, 6-0/Jr. (3.1 apg, 45.2 FG%); C Sam Daniels, 6-9/Jr. (4.0 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 41.4 3PT%); F Greg Taylor, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/South Carolina); F Tyler Berg, 6-9/Sr. (4.9 rpg, 55.1 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Spartanburg, S.C.

Home court: Benjamin Johnson Arena (3,500).

Website: www.wofford.org

5. Furman

Outlook: After making it to the tournament title game in 2002, the Paladins failed to make a run at the championship in 2003. Now, they must replace three four-year starters: Guilherme Da Luz, Kenny Zeigler and Karim Souchu. Forward Paco Gonzalez transferred. There is experience in the backcourt, with point guard Tony Carter and guard Jason Patterson, who can slash to the basket or shoot 3-pointers. The Paladins will get help from freshman Gerad Punch, a 6-4 wing who was one of the best prep players in Arizona, and combo guard Eric Webb. A quartet of veteran players will compete for playing time in the post. Newcomer Quan Prowell is a 6-8 forward who was ranked among the top 150 high school seniors. The Paladins can be counted on for rugged defense, but it might take a couple of seasons for them to become contenders.

Coach: Larry Davis (76-101, 6 years).

Projected starters: G Tony Carter, 6-0/Sr.; G Jason Patterson, 6-4/Sr. (41.8 FG%); C Marijan Pojatina, 6-11/Sr. (54.2 FG%); F Nick Sanders, 6-7/Jr. (4.0 rpg); F Maleye Ndoeye, 6-8/Sr. (41.5 FG%, 45.5 3PT%).

Last regular-season title: 1991 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1980.

Site: Greenville, S.C.

Home court: Timmons Arena (5,500).

Website: www.furmanpaladins.com

6. The Citadel

Outlook: Coach Pat Dennis will lean on the program's largest recruiting class in 12 years—six scholarship players and two walk-ons—as the Bulldogs try to rebound from a disastrous season. Dennis says this could be his best class, but it could take time to find out. At least he won't have to deal with a group of seniors who didn't perform. With five of the Bulldogs' top seven scorers gone, the newcomers must jump into the fire immediately. Four of the new guys are from Texas, including center Aaron Xia, who plans to play for China in the Olympics alongside Yao Ming. The Bulldogs picked up size and toughness with 273-pound forward Bobby Joshua. Key returning players include forward Max Mombollet and guards Kevin Hammack and Dante Terry. The Citadel usually is among the league's best defensive teams, but unless the Bulldogs find scorers, it will be another tough season.

Coach: Pat Dennis (129-174, 11 years).

Projected starters: G Kevin Hammack, 6-1/Sr. (4.8 apg); G Dante Terry, 6-2/Sr. (36.1 3PT%); C Aaron Xia, 6-9/Fr.; F Max Mombollet, 6-8/Sr. (12 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 52.1 FG%); F Bobby Joshua, 6-7/Fr.

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Charleston, S.C.

Home court: McAlister Field House (6,000).

Website: www.citadelsports.com

Big West

Rank 17

By Gordon Verrell, Long Beach Press-Telegram

Predictions

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. UC Irvine* | 7. Cal State Northridge |
| 2. UC Riverside | 8. Idaho |
| 3. Utah State | 9. Pacific |
| 4. UC Santa Barbara | 10. Cal State Fullerton |
| 5. Cal Poly | *NCAA Tournament pick |
| 6. Long Beach State | |

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Ralph Holmes, CS Fullerton	6-4	190	Jr.
G	Davin White, CS Northridge	6-2	180	Jr.
C	Vili Morton, UC Riverside	6-8	225	Jr.
C	Varnie Dennis, Cal Poly	6-8	265	Jr.
F	Branduin Fullowe, UCSB	6-4	210	Sr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Louis Darby, Long Beach St.	6-3	200	So.
G/F	Nate Carter, UC Riverside	6-7	205	So.
G/F	Ian Boylan, CS Northridge	6-6	215	Jr.
F	Tyrone Hayes, Idaho	6-4	197	Sr.
C	Adam Parada, UC Irvine	7-0	255	Sr.

Player of the year

Vili Morton

Morton won't lack for motivation. He voluntarily sat out last season just so he could get to this season. The reason: The Highlanders, beginning their fourth season in Division I, will be eligible for the Big West Tournament for the first time, and Morton wanted to be a part of it. So, he redshirted. He was the Big West's No. 1 rebounder in 2001-02, averaging 9.3 rebounds. He also had a team-best 10.9 points, and he shot at a conference-best 58.6 percent.

Newcomer of the year

Davin White

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
UC Santa Barbara^	14	4	18	14
UC Irvine	13	5	20	9
Utah State*	12	6	24	9
Cal Poly	10	8	16	14
Idaho	9	9	13	15
Cal State Fullerton	8	10	10	19
Cal State Northridge	8	10	14	15
Pacific	7	11	12	16
UC Riverside	5	13	6	18
Long Beach State	4	14	5	22

*Lost to Kansas in NCAA West first round.

^Lost to San Diego State in NIT first round.

1. UC Irvine

Outlook: With three starters among nine letter-men returning from last season's 20-9 club, there's no reason to think the Anteaters won't be the class of the conference again. UCI has won 20 or more games three consecutive seasons—the

first time that has happened in school history—and over the past three seasons has more conference wins (41) than anyone else in the league. Center Adam Parada, who was first in the Big West last season in field goal percentage (54.5) and fifth in rebounding (6.2), leads a formidable cast that includes guard Jeff Gloger, who recorded 75 steals his freshman season, 14th-best in the nation; Stanislav Zuzak, Matt Okoro and Aras Baskauskas. Also returning is Ross Schraeder, who should provide perimeter scoring.

Coach: Pat Douglass (95-77, 6 years; 471-195 overall, 22 years).

Projected starters: G Jeff Gloger, 6-4/Sr. (2.9 apg, 4.3 rpg, 52.3 FG%, 51.9 3PT%); G Mike Efeverba 6-5/Sr. (38.6 3PT%); C Adam Parada, 7-0/Sr. (12.2 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 54.5 FG%, 50.0 3PT%); F Stanislav Zuzak, 6-11/Sr. (41.9 FG%); F Matt Okoro, 6-7/Sr. (55.0 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Irvine, Calif.

Home court: Bren Events Center (5,000).

Website: www.athletics.uci.edu

2. UC Riverside

Outlook: The Highlanders have had this season on their radar since this time last year. That's when Vili Morton decided he'd sit out a year and wait until the team was eligible for the conference tournament. The Highlanders are eligible this season, and Morton, the Big West's leading rebounder two years ago, is back. Also returning for another season is talented swingman Nate Carter, who led the team in scoring last season and was selected the Big West Freshman of the Year. And so is Ted Bell, who was the best 3-point shooter on the team. Defense is suspect. The team allowed a shade under 74 points a game last season—only lowly Long Beach State gave up more. The Highlanders added three junior college transfers: 6-6 Matt Benson, 6-6 David Jobe and 6-1 Brett Ost.

Coach: John Masi (442-233 overall, 24 years).

Projected starters: G Ted Bell, 6-3/Sr. (42.3 FG%, 43.1 3PT%); G Kevin Butler, 6-2/Sr. (80.0 FT%); C Vili Morton, 6-8/Jr.; G/F Nate Carter, 6-7/Sr. (16.4 ppg, 49.1 FG%, 38.8 3PT%, 78.8 FT%); F David Jobe, 6-6 (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Riverside, Calif.

Home court: Student Rec. Center (3,168).

Website: www.athletics.ucr.edu

3. Utah State

Outlook: The Aggies finished third in the Big West last season, their lowest regular-season finish in four years, but won the conference tournament championship, posted their fourth consecutive 20-plus-win season and made it to the postseason for the fourth year in a row. And they have three starters—Spencer Nelson, Mark Brown and Cardell Butler—returning this season. Nelson led the Big West in rebounding last season. Also back is center Mike Ahmad, who averaged 3.6 points and 2.5 rebounds in 2001-02 but redshirted last season. The Aggies' top newcomers are 6-7 Jason Williams, 6-9 Ian McVey and 6-10 Brazilian Cassiano Matheus, who should help ease the loss of Desmond Penigar, a key player for Utah State the past two seasons. Utah State has led the Big West in defense four years in a row, last season holding opponents to 60.0 points a game.

Coach: Stew Morrill (118-42, 5 years; 336-180

overall, 17 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Mark Brown, 5-10/Sr. (35.8 3PT%, 85.1 FT%); G Cardell Butler, 6-4/Sr. (43 FG%, 83.7 FT%); C Mike Ahmad, 6-9 Sr.; F Spencer Nelson, 6-8/Jr., (10.2 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 65.3 FG%); F Ian McVey, 6-9/Jr.

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last NCAA appearance: 2003.

Site: Logan, Utah.

Home court: Dee Glen Smith Spectrum (10,270).

Website: www.utahstateaggies.com

4. UC Santa Barbara

Outlook: The Gauchos have a solid foundation to launch a defense of their first Big West regular-season championship. They return four starters, including conference player of the year Branduinn Fullove, their leading scorer last season. Also back are guards Jacoby Atako, who is among the league leaders in assists, as well as Nick Jones, among the team leaders in both scoring and rebounding. UCSB was the top 3-point-shooting team in the conference last season. The Gauchos ranked ninth of 10 teams in rebounding, and they lost their No. 1 rebounder, Mark Hull. But senior forward Bray Skultetly was granted a sixth year of eligibility after injuring his knee before the start of last season.

Coach: Bob Williams (80-67, 5 years; 269-157, 15 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Jacoby Atako, 6-1/Sr. (3.2 apg); G Nick Jones, 6-4/Sr. (12.4 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 49.5 FG%, 41.4 3PT%, 77.3 FT%); C Bryan Whitehead, 6-8/Sr. (4.2 rpg, 47.4 FG%); F Branduinn Fullove, 6-4/Sr. (14.6 ppg, 46.3 FG%, 41.4 3PT%, 83.7 FT%); F Bray Skultetly, 6-6/Sr.

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Santa Barbara, Calif.

Home court: Thunderdome (6,000).

Website: ucsbgauchos.com

5. Cal Poly

Outlook: Putting the wraps on big, burly Varnie Dennis will be the prime goal of every Mustangs opponent. Good luck. Dennis is the Big West's defending scoring champion and led the conference in blocked shots with 58. Dennis was on the Big West's All-Freshman team in 2001, was second-team all-conference in 2002 and first team last year. He will have company under the basket in Shane Schilling, who was among the conference leaders in steals. Forward Phil Johnson figures to get plenty of playing time. Last season, in only 275 minutes, Johnson blocked 12 shots and hit 57.6 percent of his shots. The problem early will be finding replacements for guards Jason Allen and Steve Geary. Junior college transfer Kameron Gray likely will take over at the point.

Coach: Kevin Bromley (35-38, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Kameron Gray, 6-1/So. (JC transfer); G Eric Jackson, 6-4/Jr. (44.4 FG%); C Varnie Dennis, 6-8/Jr. (17.5 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 2.1 bpg, 46.3 FG%); F Shane Schilling, 6-6/Jr. (13.5 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 75.3 FT%); F Phil Johnson, 6-11/So. (57.6 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Home court: Mott Gymnasium (3,032).

Website: www.gopoly.com

6. Long Beach State

Outlook: Last season brought the fewest wins by the 49ers in 53 years and the most losses in 18 years. Injuries played a big part, and perhaps

expectations simply were too high. Top returning players are guard Jabril Hodges, who was a conference all-freshman selection last season, and senior forward Kevin Roberts. Also back after redshirting because of knee surgery is guard Mark Bowens. Four newcomers expected to make an immediate impact are transfer Anthony Coleman, who will have to sit out the early portion of the nonconference schedule; guard Louis Darby, who sat out last year for academic reasons; freshman forward Travon Free; and freshman guard Kevin Houston.

Coach: Larry Reynolds (5-22, 1 year).

Projected starters: G Jabril Hodges, 6-2/So. (84.0 FT%); G Louis Darby, 6-3/So.; C Marcel Jackson, 6-9/Sr. (44.1 FG%, 83.3 FT%); F Kevin Roberts, 6-7/Sr. (12.2 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 43.5 FG%); F Anthony Coleman, 6-10/Jr. (transfer/Xavier).

Last regular-season title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Long Beach, Calif.

Home court: The Pyramid (5,000).

Website: www.longbeachstate.com

7. Cal State Northridge

Outlook: Northridge was on a bumpy road even before the start of practice. Reportedly, the Matadors' recruitment of junior college transfer John Clark was the subject of an NCAA investigation. And coach Bobby Braswell lost two assistants, one who was fired. On the court, the Matadors were the highest-scoring team in the Big West last season, averaging 71.5 points, and led the conference in rebounding and steals. But inconsistency was their downfall. Swingman Ian Boyland returns after ranking fifth in the conference in scoring last season. Other returning players are center Chris Davis, who averaged 8.1 points last season, and guard Joseph Frazier, who was second in the conference in steals with 2.2 a game. The Matadors landed junior college transfer Davin White, a guard who looks like the best newcomer in the conference.

Coach: Bobby Braswell (111-94, 7 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G/F Ian Boyland, 6-6/Jr. (15.8 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 3.0 apg, 47.0 FG%, 41.9 3PT%, 79.2 FT%); G Davin White, 6-2/Jr. (JC transfer); C Chris Davis, 6-9/Jr.; F Ben Sullivan, 6-10/So.; F Joseph Frazier, 6-2/Jr. (43.7 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2001 (Big Sky).

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Northridge, Calif.

Home court: The Matadome (1,600).

Website: www.gomatadors.com

8. Idaho

Outlook: Leonard Perry, starting his third season as head coach at his alma mater, has the Vandals on the upswing, coming off a 13-15 season but one that netted Idaho its most wins in four years. The Vandals return three starters, including leading scorer and rebounder Tyrone Hayes. He ranked third in the conference in rebounding and 12th in scoring. Hayes also batted away 40 shots, which was the second-most blocks in the Big West and the seventh-best total in Idaho history. Also returning are forward Jon Tinnon, center Jack May and guard Tanoris Shepard, who was averaging double figures in scoring before sustaining a season-ending knee injury in the seventh game of the season. Two junior college transfers, 6-6 Anton Lyons and 6-4 guard Dandrick Jones, are expected to help immediate-

ly. The Vandals also have a 6-10 freshman, Zach Proett, from nearby Spokane, Wash.

Coach: Leonard Perry (22-34, 2 years).

Projected starters: G Zach White, 5-10/Sr. (44.8 FG%, 38.2 3PT%); G Tanoris Shepard, 5-11/Jr. (12.7 ppg, 3.2 apg, 46.8 FG%, 41.7 3PT%); C Jack May, 6-8/Sr. (6.0 rpg, 43.0 FG%); F Tyrone Hayes, 6-4/Sr. (13.1 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 47.2 FG%, 38.9 3PT%, 79.8 FT%); F Jon Tinnon, 6-8/Sr. (4.6 rpg, 50.5 FG%, 42.9 3PT%).

Last regular-season title: 1990 (Big Sky).

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Moscow, Idaho.

Home court: Crown Spectrum (7,000).

Website: www.uiathletics.com

9. Pacific

Outlook: The Tigers didn't exactly get a running start on 2003-04. They lost 12 of their final 16 games last season and finished 12-16, their first losing season in three years. The Tigers lost leading scorer Demetrius Jackson but return two of their top three scorers, center Christian Maraker (11.3 ppg) and guard Miah Davis (10.1 ppg). Davis also was the top free throw shooter in the conference last season. Guard Tom Cockle, who hit 22 3-pointers last season, also returns. Among the newcomers, expect immediate production from forward Tyler Newton, a junior college transfer, and forward Guillaume Yango, a West Indies native who transferred from College of Southern Idaho.

Coach: Bob Thomason (234-201, 15 years; 286-228 overall, 18 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Miah Davis, 6-0/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 90.3 FT%); G Tom Cockle, 6-5/Sr. (43.2 FG%); C Christian Maraker, 6-9/So. (11.3 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 45.7 FG%); F Tyler Newton, 6-10/Jr. (JC transfer); F Guillaume Yango, 6-8/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Stockton, Calif.

Home court: Alex G. Spanos Center (6,150).

Website: www.pacifictigers.com

10. Cal State Fullerton

Outlook: Just when the Titans appeared on their way back to respectability—a 10-win season for the first time in four years—there was more chaos. Coach Donnie Daniels left after three seasons to take an assistant job at UCLA; his replacement, Bob Burton, a former assistant at Fresno State, wasn't hired until June, cutting into recruiting plans. Before that, two of last season's players were lost: Jamal Forcheney was declared academically ineligible, and Ron Allen left the program. But the Titans hardly are without weapons this season: Center Pape Sow was an All-Big West second-team selection in 2001-02, and point guard Zakee Smith and guard Ralph Holmes, who was among the top scorers in the conference last season, are back.

Coach: Bob Burton (1st year).

Projected starters: G Zakee Smith, 6-0/Sr. (4.6 apg); G Ralph Holmes, 6-4/Jr. (17.4 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 43.3 FG%); C Pape Sow, 6-10/Sr. (13.8 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 51.2 FG%, 50.0 3PT%); F Hardy Asprilla, 6-5/Jr. (JC transfer); F David Warsaw, 6-1/So. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 1976.

Last NCAA appearance: 1978.

Site: Fullerton, Calif.

Home court: Titan Gym (3,500).

Website: www.titansports.org

Sun Belt

Rank 18

By Dan McDonald, Lafayette (La.) Daily Advertiser

Predictions

East Division

1. Arkansas-Little Rock
2. Western Kentucky
3. Middle Tennessee
4. Arkansas State
5. Florida International

West Division

1. Louisiana-Lafayette*
2. New Mexico State
3. South Alabama
4. Denver
5. New Orleans
6. North Texas

*NCAA Tournament pick

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tommy Gunn, Middle Tenn.	6-3	205	Sr.
G	Brad Boyd, La.-Lafayette	6-6	190	Sr.
G	Nick Zachery, Ark.-Little Rock	6-3	205	Sr.
C	Michael Southall, La.-Lafayette	6-10	250	Jr.
F	James Moore, New Mexico St.	6-8	190	Sr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Chris Young, S. Alabama	6-1	185	Sr.
G	Johnell Smith, New Orleans	6-2	190	Sr.
C	Brett Starkey, Denver	6-9	260	Sr.
F	Malerick Bedden, S. Alabama	6-6	220	Sr.
F	Todor Pandov, W. Kentucky	6-9	230	Sr.

Player of the year

James Moore

There are bigger, stronger and quicker players in the Sun Belt, but none has Moore's instinctive ability to make things happen on both ends of the court, with or without the ball. He ranked among the top 10 in the league as a junior in all six major big-man categories—scoring, rebounds, field-goal and free throw percentage, blocks and steals—on the way to being named the conference player of the year, the first in New Mexico State history. Moore can do it on the defensive end—he has 142 career blocks—but it's his offense and knack for getting to the basket and finishing plays that make him special.

Newcomer of the year

Orien Greene, G, Louisiana-Lafayette

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
East Division				
Western Kentucky*	12	2	24	9
Middle Tennessee	9	5	16	14
Arkansas-Little Rock	8	6	18	12
Arkansas State	6	8	13	15
Florida International	1	13	8	21
West Division				
Louisiana-Lafayette^	12	3	20	9
New Mexico State	9	6	20	9
Denver	7	8	17	15
New Orleans	7	8	15	14
South Alabama	7	8	14	14
North Texas	2	13	7	21

*Lost to Illinois in NCAA West first round.

^Lost to UAB in NIT first round.

EAST DIVISION

1. Arkansas-Little Rock

Outlook: Isn't Western Kentucky supposed to win the East by default every year? Maybe not. Arkansas-Little Rock quietly has emerged as one of the Sun Belt's most solid teams. It is one of only two league members to win 18 games each of the last three seasons, achieving the feat in 2002-03 despite a schedule that included seven of nine league games on the road during a mid-season stretch. Having spent three years as a top assistant, new head coach Steve Shields knows the personnel. More important, he knows what talented guard Nick Zachery can do. The mercurial Zachery, who declared for the NBA draft but withdrew to return for a final season, twice has led the squad in scoring. He'll get lots of help in the backcourt this year from highly regarded transfer Brandon Freeman and prototype point guard Zack Graber. The key might be forward Jamal Holden, who became eligible at midterm and was one of the league's most improved players by season's end.

Coach: Steve Shields (1st year).

Projected starters: G Brandon Freeman, 6-2/Jr. (JC transfer); G Zack Graber, 5-11/Jr. (JC transfer); G Nick Zachery, 6-3/Sr. (14.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 2.4 bpg, 40.1 3PT%, 79.2 FT%); F Jamal Holden, 6-9/Sr. (4.9 rpg, 47.5 FG%); F Columbus Willis, 6-5/Sr. (56.9 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1989.**Site:** Little Rock, Ark.**Home court:** Altet Arena (18,000).**Website:** www.ualtrojans.com

2. Western Kentucky

Outlook: Is there anyone left in Bowling Green? Four double-figure scorers from last season are gone, and that doesn't include injury-plagued Chris Marcus, the league's best big man in a generation. All-conference point guard Patrick Sparks transferred out shortly after being named MVP of the league tournament, and coach Dennis Felton bolted for Georgia. That leaves new boss and former WKU guard Darrin Horn to count on a group of role players. Guard Mike Wells cemented his reputation as a stopper by being named the league's defensive player of the year last season, and he also became a consistent offensive threat. Forward Todor Pandov is back in the starting lineup after missing nearly all of last season because of a knee injury. Hilltoppers fans spoiled by 76 wins the past three seasons can take solace in a solid group of newcomers, including transfer Nigel Dixon, freshman Josh Higgins (7-0, 300) and highly regarded junior college guard Antonio Haynes.

Coach: Darrin Horn (1st year).

Projected starters: G Mike Wells, 6-3/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 51.0 FG%, 40.7 3PT%, 77.9 FT%); G Anthony Winchester, 6-4/Sr. (49.6 FG%, 45.6 3PT%, 78.0 FT%); C Nigel Dixon, 6-11/Sr. (transfer/Florida State); F Jamaal Brown, 6-7/So. (47.7 FG%); F Todor Pandov, 6-9/Sr.

Last regular-season title: 2003.**Last time didn't make NCAA field:** 2000.**Site:** Bowling Green, Ky.**Home court:** E.A. Diddle Arena (8,331).**Website:** www.wkusports.com

3. Middle Tennessee

Outlook: In his first season, coach Kermit Davis took a senior-laden team to the Blue Raiders' first winning record in Sun Belt play (9-5) and the final

of the league tournament. Only four players who saw any action last season return, but chief among them is guard Tommy Gunn, who was named first-team all-league as a junior. The Raiders are solid at the wings with Gunn, prototype three-man Michael Cuffee and Mike Dean, who is returning from knee surgery. That group will have to carry the load while a youthful front line develops and tries to fill the void left by the unsung but solid William Pippen. An undersized Raiders squad ranked second in the league in rebounding last season, and Jackson, Darrio Scott and freshman forward Alex Weekes will have to come through for Middle Tennessee to manage that feat again.

Coach: Kermit Davis (16-14, 1 year; 87-63 overall, 5 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Keith Connor, 6-0/Sr.; G Tommy Gunn, 6-3/Sr. (15.9 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 49.8 FG%, 42.8 3PT%, 82.2 FT%); G/F Michael Cuffee, 6-5/Jr. (JC transfer); F Steven Jackson, 6-6/Sr. (41.3 FG%); F Darrio Scott, 6-6/So. (transfer/George Washington)

Last regular-season title: None.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1989.**Site:** Murfreesboro, Tenn.**Home court:** Murphy Center (11,520).**Website:** www.goblueraiders.com

4. Arkansas State

Outlook: In shifting from a stifled, post-oriented attack to a bombs-away approach last season, the Indians sent shock waves through the Sun Belt. ASU's much-maligned offense ranked second in the league in scoring and 3-point shooting, hitting 39.4 percent of its attempts. Many of last season's shooters are back, including Tavoris Thompson, who led the team in scoring and the league in free throw shooting. The backcourt will get a huge boost with guard DeWarwick Spencer becoming eligible and the arrival of junior college All-American J.J. Montgomery. The downside is on the boards. Hard-working Kim Adams ranked fourth in the conference in rebounding but got precious little help last season from the rest of the ASU frontcourt. As a team, the Indians ranked next-to-last in the league in rebounding. They need a big improvement from center Evgueni Sokolov and a solid contribution from highly regarded freshman forward Isaac Wells.

Coach: Dickey Nutt (117-113, eight years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Antonio Rambo, 5-10/Sr. (37.0 3PT%, 85.3 FT%); G Tavoris Thompson, 6-1/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 38.0 3PT%, 89.9 FT%); G/F J.J. Montgomery, 6-5/Jr. (JC transfer); F Kim Adams, 6-8/Sr. (9.0 rpg, 52.7 FG%); C Evgueni Sokolov, 6-10/Jr. (49.3 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1998.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1999.**Site:** Jonesboro, Ark.**Home court:** Convocation Center (10,568).**Website:** www.asuindians.com

5. Florida International

Outlook: The Golden Panthers' offense was anything but golden last year. FIU averaged just 60.5 points, was last in the Sun Belt in 3-point shooting and next-to-last in shooting overall. Because of that, the Panthers won only four times after November. FIU could be in for an offensive struggle again this season unless a group of four junior college products and Brazilian freshman Rafael DaSilva provide instant assistance. Marcus Robinson should join Junior Matias, the team's top returning scorer, to form a decent guard tandem.

Matias showed particular improvement last season on defense, combining with Carlos Morban to collect 108 steals. Taurance Johnson, a former all-league honorable mention pick, returns after missing all but two games last season because of academic suspension. Belco Bamba has experience in the frontcourt, but the departure of big man Euliz Baez will mean struggles against the Sun Belt's upper echelon.

Coach: Donnie Marsh (26-62, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Junior Matias, 6-2/Sr. (12.6 ppg); G Carlos Morban, 6-2/Jr. (38.8 3PT%); G Marcus Robinson, 6-0/Jr. (JC transfer); F/C Belco Bamba, 6-9/Sr. (50.0 FG%); F Taurance Johnson, 6-9/Jr.

Last regular-season title: 1995 (TAAC East).

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Miami.

Home court: Golden Panther Arena (5,000).

Website: www.fiu.edu/~athletic/

WEST DIVISION

1. Louisiana-Lafayette

Outlook: After collecting 65 league wins in the last six seasons—more than any other team in the Sun Belt—the Ragin' Cajuns figure to be all the rage once again. But it will be more than tradition that boosts the Cajuns this season—four of the top five scorers return from a team that led the league in scoring and shooting percentage. There's also motivation to reach the NCAA Tournament after two straight NIT appearances. There's additional motivation on the personal level. Brad Boyd ranked fourth in the league in scoring, and Michael Southall put up solid numbers despite constant double-teams, but neither was voted first-team all-league. When Boyd is hot and Southall is on, they provide the league's best inside-outside attack. Forward Cedric Williams was a fast learner after sitting out a year, and guard Laurie Bridges might have been the team's most valuable player down the stretch. The team also has depth, with a nine-newcomer class led by Florida transfer Orien Greene.

Coach: Jessie Evans (112-72, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Brad Boyd, 6-6/Sr. (16.8 ppg, 37.3 3PT%, 82.2 FT%); G Laurie Bridges, 6-5/Sr. (11.9 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 43.6 FG%, 37.0 3PT%); G Orien Greene, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/Florida); C Michael Southall, 6-10/Jr. (12.9 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 61.0 FG%); F Cedric Williams, 6-8/Jr. (4.0 rpg, 60.3 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Lafayette, La.

Home court: Cajundome (12,800).

Website: www.ragincajuns.com

2. New Mexico State

Outlook: The presence of James Moore, the league's most multitalented player, makes New Mexico State dangerous. But Lou Henson, who will coach this season while battling cancer discovered over the summer, will be without three double-figure scorers from last year's team. The next leading scorer is Allen Haynes, a former walk-on who averaged 7.0 points. Other Aggies must step forward to help Moore, both on the perimeter and down low. Haynes is a solid 3-point threat, but unproven Earl Calloway or junior college transfer Detruis Robinson will have to pilot Henson's ship at the point. Hometown product

Kelsey Crooks will get help from slashing Missouri transfer Duane John on the wings. The biggest question is James Felder, who missed the last half of last season because of a knee injury and desperately is needed as an inside force on both ends.

Coach: Lou Henson (272-126, 15 years; 762-386 overall, 40 years; 19-20 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Earl Calloway, 6-2/So. (48.7 FG%, 78.9 FT%); G Kelsey Crooks, 6-6/Sr. (4.4 rpg, 44.2 FG%, 40.8 3PT%); G Allen Haynes, 6-1/Jr. (38.8 3PT%); F James Felder, 6-8/Sr. (4.4 rpg, 42.9 FG%); F James Moore, 6-8/Sr. (18.8 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 41.4 FG%, 36.9 3PT%, 81.3 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1999 (Big West).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Las Cruces, N.M.

Home court: Pan American Center (13,071).

Website: www.nmstatesports.com

3. South Alabama

Outlook: South Alabama took a quantum leap in coach John Pelphrey's first year, going from seven wins in 2001-02 to a 14-14 mark. USA led the Sun Belt in turnover margin and averaged just 13 turnovers. Filling the void left by guard Demetrick Williams, who led the league in steals and was second in assists, will be key, but the Jags aren't hurting in the backcourt. Prolific scorer Chris Young is back for his senior season, and Larry Thompson, a double-figure scorer two years ago, returns after missing all of last season because of a knee injury. What the Jaguars need more of is rebounding—they ranked last in the league last season. Valuable sixth man Henry Williams averaged 11.4 points and 6.1 boards off the bench, but the biggest surprise for USA last season was the rapid improvement of Malerick Bedden. Those two must carry the load inside if the Jaguars are to continue to improve.

Coach: John Pelphrey (14-14, 1 year).

Projected starters: G Richard Law, 6-6/So. (86.7 FT%); G Larry Thompson, 6-3/So.; G Chris Young, 6-1/Sr. (15.9 ppg, 38.1 3PT%, 87.9 FT%); C Justin White, 6-9/Jr. (56.9 FG%); F Malerick Bedden, 6-6/Sr. (13.4 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 51.5 FG%, 42.1 3PT%).

Last regular-season title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Mobile, Ala.

Home court: Mitchell Center (10,000).

Website: www.southalabama.edu/athletics

4. Denver

Outlook: The Pioneers turned a corner last season, improving their won-loss record by seven games over 2001-02, and made an even bigger turn with a win over West Division champion Louisiana-Lafayette in the opening round of the league tournament. Denver has the machinery to pave newer trails this season, with all five projected starters having played in last season's eight-man rotation. Coach Terry Carroll has excellent depth around the arc and solid all-league pick Brett Starkey, who doubled his scoring and rebounding output last season, in the middle. Erik Benzel and Rodney Billups, younger brother of NBA player Chauncey Billups, need to pick up the slack left by departed guard B.J. Pratt, and Ziggy Zupic must be more consistent to complement Starkey. If those things happen, the Pioneers won't be a surprise to anyone.

Coach: Terry Carroll (25-35, 2 years).

Projected starters: G Erik Benzel, 6-1/Jr. (11.2 ppg, 39.2 3PT%); G Rodney Billups, 5-10/Jr.;

C Brett Starkey, 6-9/Sr. (12.0 ppg, 9.7 rpg, 50.0 FG%); F Carvell McAlister, 6-8/Sr. (46.3 FG%, 82.5 FT%); F Zeljko "Ziggy" Zupic, 6-8/Sr. (5.4 rpg, 40.6 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Denver.

Home court: Magness Arena (7,200).

Website: www.denverpioneers.com

5. New Orleans

Outlook: The Privateers were 12-5 entering the final full month of last season, but they limped home against a road-heavy schedule and lost seven of their last 10. The good news for coach Monte Towe is that he has seven players heading into their third or fourth seasons, so lack of experience shouldn't be a factor. Guard Johnell Smith, who averaged 13.7 points last season in a sixth-man role, paces an offense that will be more perimeter-oriented after the departure of all-league forward Hector Romero. Kyle Buggs is a solid shooter, Kentrell Martin is a proven swingman and A.J. Meredith has started 58 straight games at the point. The question is the front line. Victor Brown came off the bench and was the team's third-leading scorer at 8.1 points, but the Privateers will have to count on newcomers for more inside muscle. That could come from transfer Jacques Pate and 6-10 Ben Elias.

Coach: Monte Towe (30-28, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Kyle Buggs, 6-3/Sr. (47.9 FG%, 43.5 3PT%); G A.J. Meredith, 6-0/Sr. (4.1 ppg, 81.6 FT%); C Jacques Pate, 6-10/Jr. (JC transfer); F Victor Brown, 6-9/Sr. (5.1 rpg, 46.9 FG%); F Kentrell Martin, 6-4/Sr. (58.2 FG%, 66.7 3PT%).

Last regular-season title: 1993.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: New Orleans.

Home court: Lakefront Arena (10,000).

Website: www.unoprivateers.com

6. North Texas

Outlook: Chris Davis, the best player in school history, is gone, and the Mean Green won just seven games last season with him on the roster. So why is coach Johnny Jones cautiously optimistic? It might be because Leonard Hopkins, lost to a season-ending injury after nine games last season, returns. It also might be because Jones has four transfers among his five newcomers. A lack of depth hurt the Mean Green down the stretch, leading to 14 losses in its last 15 games. However, Michael DeGrate emerged as a quality scorer and defender, and Will Smith blocked 50 shots in his first season despite battling injuries. Sharpshooter Jerome Rogers also returns, but the key to North Texas improvement lies with the new arrivals, particularly Shawson Johnson, who immediately will provide size and bulk when he hits the floor at midterms.

Coach: Johnny Jones (22-35, 2 years; 37-51 overall, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Leonard Hopkins, 6-3/Jr. (12.7 ppg, 40.0 FG%, 75.0 FT%); G Mark Wilson, 6-3/Jr. (JC transfer); C Shawson Johnson, 6-9/Sr. (transfer/LSU); F Michael DeGrate, 6-8/Sr. (4.8 rpg, 52.5 FG%, 55.6 3PT%, 75.5 FT%); F Will Smith, 6-7/Sr. (4.3 rpg, 2.6 bpg).

Last regular-season title: 1988 (Southland).

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Denton, Texas.

Home court: Super Pit (10,500).

Website: www.unt.edu/meangreen

Ohio Valley

Rank 19

By Luciana Chavez,
News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.)

Predictions

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Austin Peay* | 7. Tennessee-Martin |
| 2. Murray State | 8. Jacksonville State |
| 3. Morehead State | 9. Samford |
| 4. SE Missouri State | 10. Eastern Kentucky |
| 5. Eastern Illinois | 11. Tennessee State |
| 6. Tennessee Tech | *NCAA Tournament pick |

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Ricky Minard, Morehead State	6-4	195	Sr.
G	Cameron Crisp, Tenn. Tech	6-4	190	Sr.
G	Earl Bullock, Tenn.-Martin	6-2	190	Sr.
G/F	Victor Cuthbert, Murray State	6-5	210	Sr.
F	Adrian Henning, Austin Peay	6-6	205	Sr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Anthony Davis, Austin Peay	6-2	190	Jr.
G	Derek Winans, SE Missouri St.	6-2	175	Jr.
G	Matt Witt, Eastern Kentucky	6-0	170	So.
G	Chez Marks, Morehead State	6-3	160	Sr.
C	Josh Lewis, Austin Peay	6-8	210	Sr.

Player of the year

Ricky Minard

Minard pulled his name out of the 2003 NBA draft after participating in the Chicago pre-draft camp. He will look all the more mature for the decision if he repeats as conference player of the year. He averaged 22.5 points and 6.2 rebounds and hit 51.6 percent from the field last season. He runs the floor and scores off the drive while playing or defending either guard position. The statistics reflect only part of his game, which is defined by a nonstop motor.

Newcomer of the year

Randy Holbrook, C, SE Missouri State

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Austin Peay*	13	3	23	8
Morehead State	13	3	20	9
Tennessee Tech	11	5	20	12
Murray State	9	7	17	12
Eastern Illinois	9	7	14	15
Tennessee-Martin	7	9	14	14
SE Missouri State	5	11	11	19
Eastern Kentucky	5	11	11	19
Tennessee State	0	16	2	25

*Lost to Louisville in NCAA East first round.

1. Austin Peay

Outlook: It's hard to believe Austin Peay was considered a dark horse last season. A year later, the Governors are heavy favorites. The 2003 OVC champions return all five starters, including leading scorers Adrian Henning, Anthony Davis and Josh Lewis, from their NCAA Tournament team. Point guard Corey Gipson did a steady job in his first year in the starting lineup and still hasn't shown his full potential. Lewis led the conference in blocks, and the team was No. 1 in the Ohio Valley in scoring defense. The Governors will challenge themselves with a difficult schedule that includes four NCAA Tournament teams: Kentucky, Alabama, Memphis and Western Kentucky.

Coach: Dave Loos (198-181, 13 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Corey Gipson, 6-1/Sr. (8.4 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.6 apg, 78.7 FT%); G Rhett Wierzbza, 6-4/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 37.9 3PT%, 71.1 FT%); G Anthony Davis, 6-2/Jr. (14.0 ppg, 4.7 rpg); C Josh Lewis, 6-8/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 2.6 bpg, 63.6 FG%); F Adrian Henning, 6-6/Sr. (15.5 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 56.1 FG%, 40.4 3PT%).

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Clarksville, Tenn.

Home court: Dunn Center (9,000).

Website: www.apsu.edu/letsgoapeay

2. Murray State

Outlook: New coach Mick Cronin, who takes over for retired Tevester Anderson, brings knowledge of Bob Huggins' snarly defense and Rick Pitino's run-and-gun offense to his first head coaching job. More important, Cronin brings the recruiting chops that grabbed top 10 classes for Louisville the past two years. That's good news for the Racers, who won or shared the conference title 12 of the past 16 years but fell off pace in 2002-03, when they finished 9-7 in the conference. Murray State returns three starters, including one of the league's few true low-post threats in senior Victor Cuthbert. Senior Rick Jones is the team's best 3-point shooter in the wide-open offense. But Cronin must replace forward James Singleton's double-double inside. The Racers signed two big men, including 6-7 Kelvin Brown, who played at South Florida and Fort Scott (Kan.) CC. He should help fill the gap.

Coach: Mick Cronin (1st year).

Projected starters: G/F Victor Cuthbert, 6-5/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 59.6 FG%); G Mark Borders, 6-1/Jr. (3.1 apg); G Rick Jones, 6-1/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 39.1 3PT%, 79.4 FT%); G Chris Shumate, 6-6/Sr. (13.1 ppg, 4.4 rpg); F Kelvin Brown, 6-7/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 2000 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Murray, Ky.

Home court: Regional Special Events Center (8,600)

Website: www.goracers.com

3. Morehead State

Outlook: The Eagles caught a break when Ricky Minard didn't enter the NBA draft. Minard, the reigning OVC Player of the Year, and fellow senior Chez Marks give Morehead

State a dangerous perimeter attack. Minard will drive, rebound and lead the fast break, and Marks will knock down 3s. The Eagles have been missing a power game, and they tried to address that by signing 6-10 center Kevin McDonald, a freshman from Harrison, Ohio. The Eagles led Division I in field goal percentage last season (51 percent) with a high-octane offense. But a running team needs solid rebounding, and that falls on Minard and junior Chad McKnight. The team lost the 6.2 boards provided by Ike Lopez. McKnight, senior center Anton Kerley and senior forward David Aliu must go to work on the boards if Morehead State hopes to challenge Austin Peay for OVC supremacy.

Coach: Kyle Macy (75-92, 6 years).

Projected starters: G Ricky Minard, 6-4/Sr. (22.5 ppg, 51.6 FG%, 6.2 rpg, 36.7 3PT%, 83.7 FT%); G Chez Marks, 6-3/Sr. (17.4 ppg, 45.6 3PT%, 84.9 FT%); C Anton Kerley, 6-9/Sr. (48.1 FG%); F Chad McKnight, 6-7/Jr. (57.6 FG%); F David Aliu, 6-6/Sr. (58.5 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1984.

Last NCAA appearance: 1984.

Site: Morehead, Ky.

Home court: Johnson Arena (6,500).

Website: www.msueagles.com

4. Southeast Missouri State

Outlook: The Indians return all five starters, but they will be challenged by newcomers. Juniors Derek Winans and Brett Hale combined to average 29 points on the perimeter, and senior Brandon Griffin averaged a double-double last season. Three of the newcomers practiced with the team last year. Guard Mike Nelke, a transfer from Valparaiso, is a true point guard who can shoot the 3. Dainmon Gonner is a 6-6 forward who has a strong inside game. Forward Reggie Golson drew raves after showing he could be the team's best overall player. Center Randy Holbrook, a 6-10 junior college transfer, could be an immediate impact player. SEMO looks like a dark horse, but to contend, the Indians must contest more shots because teams hit 49.6 percent against them last season.

Coach: Gary Garner (93-82, 6 years; 340-246 overall, 20 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Derek Winans, 6-2/Jr. (15.3 ppg, 3.6 apg, 41.3 3PT%, 43.6 FG%); G Brett Hale, 6-3/Jr. (13.7 ppg, 42.9 3PT%, 91.4 FT%); G Kevin Roberts, 6-3/Jr. (6.2 apg); C Brandon Griffin, 6-8/Sr. (11.9 ppg, 10.5 rpg, 57.3 FG); F Damarcus Hence, 6-6, Sr. (10.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 41.3 FG%, 80.7 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 2000 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Home court: Show Me Center (7,000).

Website: www.gosoutheast.com

5. Eastern Illinois

Outlook: The Panthers' unenviable task is to replace the scoring of Henry Domercant (27.9 ppg) and J.R. Reynolds (12.3) from a team that lost 10 of its first 15 games last season. The Panthers often lacked different scoring options when teams had Domercant running in circles without a clear path to the basket. Forward Jesse Mackinson is the leading returning scorer (9.8 ppg) and rebounder (5.0 rpg). But EIU

lost its entire backcourt and needs junior Josh Gomes, senior David Roos and junior college transfer Derik Hollyfield to add scoring and defense on the outside. Coach Rick Samuels, who signed three big men to address the gaping hole in the middle, also brought in small forward Aaron Patterson. Patterson or fellow transfer Aaron Harrison (6-9, 290) eventually should win a spot in the starting lineup.

Coach: Rick Samuels (342-323, 23 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Josh Gomes, 6-3/So. (42.7 FG%, 40.0 3PT%, 88.9 FT%); G Emanuel Dildy, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/New Mexico State); C Jesse Mackinson, 6-8/Sr. (5.0 rpg, 49.1 FG%, 77.9 FT%); F Andy Gobczynski, 6-6/Jr.; F David Roos, 6-5/Sr. (36.6 3PT%).

Last regular-season title: 1991 (Mid-Continent).

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Charleston, Ill.

Home court: Lantz Arena (5,300).

Website: www.eiu.edu/~sprintinfo/

6. Tennessee Tech

Outlook: After making a run at Austin Peay for the conference title, Tennessee Tech will be virtually unrecognizable when it takes the court this season. Tech lost five seniors—four who played on the front line. Coach Mike Sutton signed three players 6-7 or taller to make up for the loss of 6-8 leading scorer Damien Kinloch and his 16.3 points. Junior college transfer Ben Jacobson is expected to fill the void. Jacobson played a year at Lamar, where his career was derailed by a hand injury. He moved from the post to small forward during his season in junior college. Sutton likes Jacobson's ability to rebound and to step out and shoot the 3. Cameron Crisp, the team's leading returning scorer, assist man and 3-point shooter, runs the point in Sutton's uptempo offense.

Coach: Mike Sutton (20-12, 1 year).

Projected starters: G Cameron Crisp, 6-4/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 4.5 apg, 80.0 FT%, 35.9 3PT%, 42.8 FG%); G Milone Clark, 6-4/So. (40.5 FG%); G Keyon Boyd, 6-5/Fr.; C Isaiah Mills, 6-9/Fr.; F Ben Jacobson, 6-7/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last NCAA appearance: 1963.

Site: Cookeville, Tenn.

Home court: Eblen Center (10,250).

Website: www.tntech.edu/athletics

7. Tennessee-Martin

Outlook: In addition to losing 10 of its last 14 games last season, Tennessee-Martin lost three starters, including J.C. Howe, who averaged 13.9 points. Coach Bret Campbell will build around a backcourt that returns intact. Shooting guard Earl Bullock, the team's leading scorer last season, and point guard Jeremy Kelly will get help from junior college transfer Justin Smith. Oversized wing Kenan Asceric has the European game and stroke, but Campbell wants to get tougher inside. Forward Cleve Woodfork, who sat out last season, is expected to jump into the starting lineup to clear out the middle with his 235-pound body. The Skyhawks have three junior college transfers who could fill the scoring and rebounding holes left by Howe and Joey Walker.

Coach: Bret Campbell (49-65, 4 years).

Projected starters: G Earl Bullock, 6-2/Sr. (16.0 ppg, 35.3 3PT%, 80.0 FT%); G Jeremy Kelly, 6-4/So. (3.7 apg, 46.2 FG%); G/F Kenan Asceric, 6-9/Jr. (50.6 FG%, 76.0 FT%); G Justin Smith, 6-2/Jr. (JC transfer); F Cleve Woodfork, 6-9/So.

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Martin, Tenn.

Home court: Skyhawk Arena (6,700).

Website: www.utmsports.com

8. Jacksonville State

Outlook: Jacksonville State finished second in its last season in the Atlantic Sun Conference. But that might not translate into immediate success in the OVC. Jacksonville State must replace 42 percent of its scoring after losing Omar Bartlett, Poonie Richardson and Jay Heard. The team's leading returning scorer is Scott Watson, who averaged 8.0 points in 24.7 minutes off the bench. Watson must add scoring and ballhandling because the team lost its two best assist men, and none of the remaining players averaged more than 7.1 points last year. Gamecocks coach Mike LaPlante will try to get Auburn transfer Abdou Diame (6-9, 235) into the mix along with sophomore Carl Brown (240 pounds) to counter a bigger OVC. Losing so much firepower will make the transition tough, but the team is coming off its first 20-win season since joining Division I in 1995-96.

Coach: Mike LaPlante (42-45, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Emerson Brown, 6-2/Sr.; G James Denson, 6-3/Sr. (83.3 FT%, 39.4 3PT%); F Josh Perry, 6-4/Sr. (43.1 FG%); G Scott Watson, 6-0/Sr. (3.2 apg, 84.5 FT%, 38.3 3PT%, 47.1 FG%); F Carl Brown, 6-8/So., (59.8 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Jacksonville, Ala.

Home court: Pete Matthews Coliseum (5,500).

Website: www.jsugamecocksports.com

9. Samford

Outlook: Samford's deliberate offense should provide plenty of shock value in the team's first year in the usually high-octane OVC. Coach Jimmy Tillette runs the Princeton offense and returns an experienced group. Though the rest of the league will look to push the ball up the floor, Samford, which comes from the Atlantic Sun, will slow it down, work the clock and find the best shot. Tillette uses four perimeter players and a post in an offense that emphasizes movement and going backdoor. Samford returns four starters but needs a point guard to run the complicated scheme. Sophomore Anthony LoPiano could have the job early, but redshirt freshmen Randall Gulina and Jerry Smith are expected to battle for it in the long term. The Bulldogs are entering a bigger, stronger and faster league. How long they can fly playing a different brand of ball remains to be seen.

Coach: Jimmy Tillette (102-73, 6 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Tyson Dorsey, 6-3/Sr. (45.5 3PT%, 46.2 FG%); G Anthony LoPiano, 6-1/So.; C Phillip Ramelli, 6-10/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 3.2 apg, 76.6 FT%, 46.5 3PT%, 57.2

FG%); F J. Robert Merritt, 6-6/So. (4.3 rpg, 42.9 3PT%, 49.7 FG%); F Jon Mills, 6-6/Jr. (86.7 FT%, 50.0 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2000 (Atlantic Sun).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Birmingham, Ala.

Home court: Seibert Hall (4,000).

Website: www.samfordsports.com

10. Eastern Kentucky

Outlook: Eastern Kentucky, which hasn't had a winning season since 1992-93, returns guard Matt Witt, the conference freshman of the year. With Witt and senior Shawn Fields, the Colonels finished tied for seventh in OVC play last season but won two more conference games than the previous season. ECU also returns center Jon Bentley, who had a solid season a year after being slowed by injuries. ECU needs much more from him inside to keep defenses honest on Witt. Forward Michael Haney, a strong low-post threat, will get the playing time to prove he can become an impact player. But ECU wants the bulk of its offense to come from Witt, Mike Scott and Ben Rushing. All three can score, but Scott and Rushing will be asked to do more with the ball to give Witt room to maneuver.

Coach: Travis Ford (25-56, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Matt Witt, 6-0/So. (13.6 ppg, 5.1 apg, 78.0 FT%, 35.3 3PT%); C Jon Bentley, 6-9/Sr. (11.9 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 65.5 FG%); F Michael Haney, 6-6/Jr. (5.9 rpg, 52.1 FG%, 78.8 FT%); G Ben Rushing, 5-11/Jr. (88.6 FT%); G Mike Scott, 6-0/Sr. (43.1 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1979.

Last NCAA appearance: 1979.

Site: Richmond, Ky.

Home court: McBrayer Arena (6,500).

Website: www.ekusports.com

11. Tennessee State

Outlook: First-year coach Cy Alexander traded a solid program and potential NCAA Tournament team at South Carolina State for the reclamation project at Tennessee State. Former coach Nolan Richardson III was fired last season after bringing a gun into the school's gymnasium following a fight with assistant Hosea Lewis. Alexander accepted the challenge and got right to work, recruiting combo guard Bruce Price out of Minnesota. Alexander also got transfers Eric King (St. John's) and Rod Flowers (Cincinnati). The Tigers will lean on forward Roshawn Bowens and guard Garret Richardson, nephew of the former coach. The Tigers did not win a conference game last season and gave up 91.5 points per game.

Coach: Cy Alexander (1st year; 277-202 overall, 16 years; 0-5 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Garret Richardson, 6-3/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 4.1 apg); G Brandon Lockridge, 6-0/Sr.; G Adrian Pritchett, 5-10/So. (42.1 FG%, 39.0 3PT%); C Cedric Bryson, 6-10/Sr. (49.2 FG%); F Roshawn Bowens, 6-6/Jr. (15.4 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 45.4 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1995.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Nashville.

Home court: Gentry Center (10,500).

Website: www.teamstsu.com

Colonial

Rank 20

By Michael Bradley, free-lance writer

Predictions

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. George Mason* | 7. Old Dominion |
| 2. Va. Commonwealth | 8. William & Mary |
| 3. UNC Wilmington | 9. James Madison |
| 4. Drexel | 10. Towson |
| 5. Delaware | *NCAA Tournament pick |
| 6. Hofstra | |

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Dominic Jones, VCU	6-1	190	Sr.
G	Mark Davis, George Mason	6-5	200	Sr.
C	Troy Godwin, VCU	6-6	300	Sr.
F	Adam Hess, William & Mary	6-8	225	Sr.
F	Kenny Adeleke, Hofstra	6-8	230	Jr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Mike Ames, Delaware	6-3	185	Sr.
G	Phil Goss, Drexel	6-1	175	Jr.
G	Raoul Heinen, George Mason	6-5	185	Sr.
F	Anthony Terrell, UNC Wilmington	6-7	230	Sr.
F	Nick George, VCU	6-6	205	So.

Player of the year

Adam Hess

Even if Hess weren't playing on a team that was highly depleted by graduation and defection, he would be the favorite to win this award. Because he will be the complete focus of the team, he virtually is a lock to win it. Hess can score in bunches—from inside and out—and hits the boards with authority. He's an offensive rebounding specialist and has the strength to withstand the inevitable double-team pounding he'll take this season.

Newcomer of the year

Terry Reynolds, G, George Mason

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
UNC Wilmington*	15	3	24	7
Va. Commonwealth	12	6	18	10
Drexel	12	6	19	12
George Mason	11	7	16	12
Delaware	9	9	15	14
Old Dominion	9	9	12	15
James Madison	8	10	13	17
William & Mary	7	11	12	16
Hofstra	6	12	8	21
Towson	1	17	4	24

*Lost to Maryland in NCAA South first round.

1. George Mason

Outlook: Last year's 16-12 finish was nice, but after two straight postseason appearances, it wasn't nice enough. But in a league in which many teams are undergoing transitions, George Mason returns enough to guarantee a serious championship challenge. Three senior starters, a strong bench and some impressive newcomers are the reasons for such optimism. Leading the way is Mark Davis, who led the team in scoring last season. If his shooting percentage—38.6 last season—improves, look out. Versatile guard Raoul Heinen will get a chance to play plenty at shooting guard, thanks to the arrival of speedy transfer Terry Reynolds, the 2001-02 MAC Rookie of the Year, and junior college veteran Tony Skinn. Richard Tynes is a solid swingman who can score and rebound solidly, and guard Lamar Butler returns after missing last season because of a hip injury. If there is a question, it's up front, where Jai Lewis and junior college import Kevin Mickens must replace Jon Larranaga and Jesse Young.

Coach: Jim Larranaga (100-74, 6 years; 298-243 overall, 19 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Mark Davis, 6-5/Sr. (15.5 ppg); G Raoul Heinen, 6-5/Sr. (11.0 ppg, 3.4 apg, 43.7 FG%, 35.4 3PT%, 78.7 FT%); G/F Richard Tynes, 6-4/Sr. (4.4 rpg, 53.1 FG%); F Jai Lewis, 6-7/So. (6.7 ppg, 5.6 rpg); F Kevin Mickens, 6-9/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 2001.

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Fairfax, Va.

Home court: Patriot Center (10,000).

Website: www.gmusports.com

2. Virginia Commonwealth

Outlook: If everything comes together for the Rams, this could be a title season. Enough talent returns, and there is an interesting collection of newcomers that could provide the requisite backup for a big run. Not that there aren't questions. Point man Dominic Jones needs to score more. The team hopes newcomer Alexander Harper, a fine distributor from Palm Beach Community College, can play the point and let Jones slide over to shooting guard. Troy Godwin must stay out of foul trouble and become more of an interior scoring threat. Nick George, who showed much potential last season, is poised to improve. If 6-5 forward Johnnie Story—back at VCU after a yearlong stint at North Idaho Junior College—is recovered from the torn ACL that sidelined him last season, he should be a beast. Look for solid work from Michael Doles and some exciting play from 6-4 freshman Jesse Pellot-Rosa.

Coach: Jeff Capel (18-10, 1 year).

Projected starters: G Alexander Harper, 6-4/So. (JC transfer); G Dominic Jones, 6-1/Sr. (12.4 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 3.9 apg, 42.6 FG%); C Troy Godwin, 6-6/Sr. (8.2 rpg, 48.7 FG%); F Michael Doles, 6-6/Jr. (49.0 FG%, 42.4 3PT%, 83.3 FT%); F Nick George, 6-6/So. (6.7 rpg, 48.4 FT%, 77.5 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Richmond, Va.

Home court: Siegel Center (7,500).

Website: vcucrams.vcu.edu

3. UNC Wilmington

Outlook: Brett Blizard, the school's all-time leading scorer, and fellow stalwarts Craig Callahan and Tim Burnette are gone. What's left are two returning starters, a handful of marginal contributors and plenty of questions. Early signs indicate John Goldsberry will reprise his strong debut at the point by continuing to take good care of the ball. He'll likely team with Georgia Tech transfer Halston Lane and newcomer Ed Spencer in the backcourt. Both are athletic and versatile. Up front, Anthony Terrell will get a chance to emerge from Callahan's shadow. He has a shot at all-conference recognition. Denver transfer Taylor Lay should be a steady frontcourt contributor, and coach Brad Brownell is excited about 6-10 freshman forward Dejan Grkovic. Expect the Seahawks to play great defense again and slow things down from last season, but another trip to the NAAs will be tough to catch.

Coach: Brad Brownell (24-7, 1 year; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G John Goldsberry, 6-3/So. (3.4 apg, 44.0 FG%, 42.9 3PT%); G Halston Lane, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/Georgia Tech); G Ed Spencer, 6-2/Jr. (JC transfer); F Taylor Lay, 6-7/So. (transfer/Denver); F Anthony Terrell, 6-7/Sr. (4.8 rpg, 53.2 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.

Site: Wilmington, N.C.

Home court: Trask Coliseum (6,100).

Website: www.uncwports.com

4. Drexel

Outlook: Several candidates must work together to replace Robert Battle, last season's conference defensive player of the year. Forward Sean Brooks, a 6-6, 240-pound junior, will lead the way. Freshman Chaz Crawford, who carries just 200 pounds on his 6-9 frame, also will chip in. He's a good shot blocker and rebounder but is raw defensively. With guard Eric Schmieder gone, frontcourt scoring should come from Kenell Sanchez, who was inconsistent last season but looked great late. At guard, Phil Goss, a 3-point specialist and improving defender, joins up-and-down Jeremiah King. Replacing Schmieder's 13.6 points per game won't be easy, but freshman Bashir Mason, a true point, and classmate Maurice Madden will get ample opportunity to try. Wing Danny Hinds will try to match his strong defensive play with improved marksmanship—he shot just 35.4 percent from the floor last season—and Tim Whitworth must rebound from last season's disappointing shooting performance.

Coach: James "Bruiser" Flint (33-26, 2 years; 119-98 overall, 7 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Phil Goss, 6-1/Jr. (11.5 ppg, 40.7 FG%, 38.5 3PT%, 78.9 FT%); G Jeremiah King, 6-2/Jr. (3.5 apg, 82.6

FT%); F Danny Hinds, 6-6/Jr.; F Kenell Sanchez, 6-5/So. (48.0 FG%); F Tim Whitworth, 6-6/Sr. (41.9 FG%).
Last regular-season title: 1996 (North Atlantic).
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Philadelphia.
Home court: Daskalakis Athletic Center (2,300).
Website: www.drexel.edu/sports

5. Delaware

Outlook: Guard Ryan Iversen, the Blue Hens' top rebounder the past two seasons, and top interior man Maurice Sessoms are gone. That's why every one of the six newcomers on the 2003-04 roster is 6-6 or taller. Transfer Harding Nana (6-8, 230) is built for heavy lifting inside. Of course, for the rebounds to come, Delaware will need to score close to the basket. That will depend greatly on the backcourt of Mike Slattery and Mike Ames. Both need to shoot better from long range, especially Ames, whose 3-point accuracy fell below 35 percent last season, due in part to an early knee injury. Slattery is an excellent distributor who also could get a little more precise with his shot. Defensive specialist Robin Wentt is an X-factor. He missed all but one game last season because of a shoulder injury.

Coach: David Henderson (49-40, 3 years).
Projected starters: G Mike Ames, 6-3/Sr. (14.0 ppg, 89.4 FT%); G David Lunn, 6-4/Jr. (43.2 FG%, 78.1 FT%); G Mike Slattery, 6-0/Jr. (10.9 ppg, 6.2 apg, 40.0 FG%); G/F Robin Wentt, 6-7/Jr.; F Harding Nana, 6-8/So. (transfer/Virginia Tech).

Last regular-season title: 1999 (America East).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Newark, Del.

Home court: Bob Carpenter Center (5,000).

Website: www.udel.edu/sportsinfo

6. Hofstra

Outlook: Injuries and suspensions torpedoed any serious momentum the Pride tried to generate last season, although the team's travails might have helped it develop depth for this season. The first order of business will be replacing leading scorer Rick Apodaca. That job should go to Michael Radziejewski, who displayed pretty good shooting range last season and averaged just less than 10 points. He'll team with Woody Souffrant, who needs to make better decisions at the point. Gibran Washington will back up Souffrant, with freshmen Loren Stokes and Carlos Rivera also vying for reserve time. The frontcourt looks set with the return of rebounding machine Kenny Adeleke and steady pivot Wendell Gibson. Danny Walker, who missed last season because of an ankle injury, is a solid interior player. Inside-outside threat Aurimas Kieza is the top reserve up front.

Coach: Tom Pecora (20-41, 2 years).

Projected starters: G Michael Radziejewski, 6-5/Jr. (4.2 rpg); G Woody Souffrant, 5-11/Jr. (4.5 apg); F/C Wendell Gibson, 6-7/Jr. (6.0 rpg, 41.1 FG%); F Kenny Adeleke, 6-8/Jr.

(16.1 ppg, 11.0 rpg, 49.5 FG%); F Danny Walker, 6-6/Sr.

Last regular-season title: 2001.

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Hempstead, N.Y.

Home court: Hofstra Arena (5,124).

Website: www.hofstra.edu/athletics

7. Old Dominion

Outlook: If you're looking for firepower, this isn't the place. The Monarchs lost their two top scorers—Ricardo Marsh and Rasheed Wright, who combined to average more than 30 points—and are left with a collection of solid performers but no leading men. But there is promise. Alex Loughton was an all-rookie choice last season, and wing John Waller is a strong inside scorer. The backcourt belongs to Isaiah Hunter and Troy Nance, a good distributor. That quartet should keep the Monarchs in many games. The question is whether they're good enough to beat the top-level CAA clubs. Reinforcements come five deep, with freshmen Arnaud Dahi and athlete extraordinaire Drew Williamson leading the way. Expect fellow freshmen Abdi Lidonde and Valdas Vasylius to launch often from behind the arc.

Coach: Blaine Taylor (25-31, 2 years; 167-96 overall, 9 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Isaiah Hunter, 6-2/So.; G Troy Nance, 5-10/Sr. (4.4 apg); F Alex Loughton, 6-9/So. (5.3 rpg, 41.5 FG%); F John Waller, 6-4/Sr. (4.6 rpg, 40.6 FG%, 39.1 3PT%); F Arnaud Dahi, 6-8/Fr.

Last regular-season title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Norfolk, Va.

Home court: Ted Constant Convocation Center (8,600).

Website: www.odusports.com

8. William & Mary

Outlook: As the only returning starter on a team that also lost its best reserve, Adam Hess should be the focus of every opponent's junk scheme and double-team. Not that those should bother him—he was second in the league in scoring last season and can light it up from all over. He's also an excellent offensive rebounder, a good passer and a solid defender. The backcourt should include Nick D'Antoni, who struggled to make good decisions from the point last season but is fine for new coach Tony Shaver's uptempo style. Taylor Mokris showed some promise and ought to play at shooting guard, and banger Zeb Cope will handle the middle. Shaver hopes Reid Markham, who played just five games last season because of illness, is healthy and can be a weapon on the wing. Freshman Corey Cofield, the team's only newcomer, should add depth up front.

Coach: Tony Shaver (1st year).

Projected starters: G Nick D'Antoni, 6-0/Jr.; G Reid Markham, 6-3/Jr. (80.0 FT%); G Taylor Mokris, 6-5/So. (43.0 FG%); F Zeb Cope, 6-9/Sr. (41.2 FG%); F Adam Hess, 6-8/Sr. (20.1 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 46.7 FG%, 37.2 3PT%, 84.4 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1998 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Williamsburg, Va.

Home court: William & Mary Hall (8,600).

Website: www.tribeathletics.com

9. James Madison

Outlook: This is a rebuilding season for JMU, which returns just two starters and precious few returning reserves and features a crop of newcomers that appears average at best. Point man Chris Williams, a capable distributor and defender, and Dwayne Broyles, a wing with good shooting range, will be counted on to lead the way. Expect Daniel Freeman to grab some regular work at one guard spot, with touted freshman Ray Barbosa expected to see plenty of backcourt time, too. The Dukes hope transfer David Cooper establishes himself quickly at forward. They also need big freshmen Ryan Brimley (6-10, 245) and Eddie Greene-Long (6-9, 230) to attack the glass right away. A boost could come from 6-5 red-shirt freshman Ulrich Kossekpa, who sat out last season because of a torn ACL.

Coach: Sherman Dillard (86-85, 6 years; 115-137 overall, 9 years).

Projected starters: G Ray Barbosa, 6-2/Fr.; G Daniel Freeman, 6-0/Jr. (43.7 FG%); G Chris Williams, 6-2/Sr. (43.0 FG%); F Dwayne Broyles, 6-5/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 40.3 FG%, 40.1 3PT%); F David Cooper, 6-7/So. (transfer/Southern New Hampshire).

Last regular-season title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Harrisonburg, Va.

Home court: JMU Convocation Center (7,146).

Website: www.jmusports.com

10. Towson

Outlook: Plenty of experience returns for Towson, providing a foundation that could lead to future success. But the climb out of the basement won't be easy. Towson won only one league game last season and averaged just 56.8 points. Worse still, the Tigers ranked last in Division I-A in turnovers, with 20.6 per game. The hope is freshmen Mike Green and Trevan Jackson will help remedy that. Both can play the point and should allow Jamaal Gilchrist to slide to shooting guard, where he'll be more comfortable. Tony Dixon is a reliable inside scorer, but he has just 210 pounds on his 6-10 frame. At 7-0, 275, Derrick Goode could be a force inside if in better condition. Cilk McSweeney is a good shooter from the wing, and Jacob McCartney is athletic but needs to show more control.

Coach: Michael Hunt (15-42, 2 years).

Projected starters: G Jamaal Gilchrist, 6-0/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 3.4 apg, 43.9 FG%, 35.4 3PT%, 80.0 FT%); G Mike Green, 6-1/Fr.; C Tony Dixon, 6-10/Jr. (4.0 rpg, 50.0 FG%); F Jacob McCartney, 6-10, So.; F Cilk McSweeney, 6-5/So. (37.5 3PT%).

Last regular-season title: 1992 (East Coast).

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: Towson, Md.

Home court: Towson Center (5,000).

Website: www.towsontigers.com

Atlantic Sun

Rank 21

By Bob Pockrass,
Daytona Beach (Fla.) News-Journal

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Greg Davis, Troy State	6-1	165	Sr.
G	Earnest Crumbley, Fla. Atlantic	5-10	175	Sr.
C	Nate Williams, Georgia State	6-11	225	Sr.
F	Scott Emerson, Mercer	6-9	235	Sr.
F	Adam Mark, Belmont	6-8	225	Sr.

Player of the year

Scott Emerson

There were several reasons Mercer went from 6-23 in 2001-02 to 23-6 last season, but the biggest was Emerson's return from injury. He averaged 15.1 points and 9.1 rebounds. But more important, Emerson takes good shots and passes when double-teamed. He wasn't scared to take a 3-pointer and hit 38.9 percent (23-of-59) from beyond the arc. He also piled up 6.0 defensive rebounds a game. Now he must work on cutting down his turnovers.

Newcomer of the year

Mike Bell, C, Florida Atlantic

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
North Division				
Belmont	12	4	17	12
Jacksonville State	10	6	20	9
Samford	9	7	13	15
Georgia State	8	8	14	15
Gardner-Webb	2	14	5	24
Campbell	1	15	5	22
South Division				
Mercer	14	2	23	6
Troy State*	14	2	26	5
Central Florida	11	5	21	11
Jacksonville	8	8	13	16
Stetson	4	12	6	20
Florida Atlantic	3	13	7	21

*Lost to Xavier in the NCAA South first round.

1. Troy State*

Outlook: So what if they lost leading scorer Ben Fletcher? Rob Lewin will score as many points—and maybe average a double-double. Corey Hornsby and Ryan Heck are talented junior college transfers who will shine. Herbert Evans and Greg Davis add points, playmaking and defense. Coach Don Maestri should get his newcomers to mesh with the returners for a deep, athletic team. He won his first league title last season and should get another before the Trojans leave for the Sun Belt in two years.

Coach: Don Maestri (357-242, 21 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Herbert Evans, 6-2/Sr. (3.2 apg, 47.7 FG%, 37.8 3PT%); G Greg Davis, 6-1/Sr. (11.0 ppg, 4.7 apg, 44.2 FG%, 37.0 3PT%); C Rob Lewin, 6-7/Sr. (12.2 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 2.1 bpg, 53.0 FG%); F Ryan Heck, 6-7/Jr. (JC transfer); F Corey Hornsby, 6-5/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Troy, Ala.

Home court: Trojan Arena (4,500).

Website: www.troystate.com

2. Mercer

Outlook: Mercer has its two most important figures returning—forward Scott Emerson and coach Mark Slonaker, who interviewed for the Georgia vacancy. Mercer is coming off a season in which it turned a 6-23 record in 2001-02 into 23-6 in 2002-03. The Bears have the most post depth in the league with Emerson, Wesley Duke and Delmar Wilson. The backcourt might be new, but James Odoms and Maxi Rios should thrive because throwing the ball into the post to Duke and Emerson will result in a lot of points.

Coach: Mark Slonaker (67-104, 6 years).

Projected starters: G James Odoms, 6-5/Jr. (JC transfer); G Maxi Rios, 6-0/Jr. (JC transfer);

F Scott Emerson, 6-9/Sr. (15.1 ppg, 9.1 rpg, 58.2 FG% 38.9 3PT%); F Wesley Duke, 6-5/Sr. (6.7 rpg, 2.2 bpg, 59.2 FG%, 75.0 FT%); F Delmar Wilson, 6-3/So. (10.0 ppg, 46.2 FG%, 81.5 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1985.

Last NCAA appearance: 1985.

Site: Macon, Ga.

Home court: University Center (3,106).

Website: www.mercer.edu/athletics

3. Georgia State

Outlook: This club can re-establish itself as the league's dominant team if Trello Galloway is healthy and league scoring leader Nate Williams continues to torment opponents in the paint. Lamont McIntosh will move from point guard to shooting guard, and Herman Favors takes over at the point. With four junior college transfers capable of starting, depth should be a strength for the Panthers, who had three players average at least 33 minutes last season.

Coach: Michael Perry (10-9, 1st full year).

Projected starters: G Lamont McIntosh, 6-3/Sr. (13.3 ppg, 3.2 apg, 46.6 FG%); G Herman Favors, 5-9/So. (44.4 FG%); C Nate Williams, 6-11/Sr. (17.9 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 51.7 FG%); F Trello Galloway, 6-7/Sr. (6.7 rpg, 51.5 FG%); F Marcus Brown, 6-7/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 2002 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Atlanta.

Home court: GSU Sports Arena (5,000).

Website: www.georgiastatesports.com

4. Belmont

Outlook: Some coaches say Adam Mark and his insane 67 percent shooting were products of the five-man motion system more than the product of Adam Sonn's assists. Belmont hopes it was the former because Mark's effectiveness will be a big factor in how good the Bruins are this season.

Coach: Rick Byrd (346-193, 17 years; 438-248 overall, 22 years).

Projected starters: G Brian Collins, 6-4/So. (3.2 apg, 41.2 FG%); G Jese Snyder, 6-3/Jr. (36.5 3PT%, 80.0 FT%); G Steve Drabyn, 6-0/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 3.8 apg, 44.8 FG%, 43.3 3PT%, 95.1 FT%);

F Adam Mark, 6-8/Sr. (16.3 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 67.0 FG%, 39.5 3PT%); F Dan Oliver, 6-6/So.

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Nashville.

Home court: Curb Event Center (5,000).

Website: www.belmont.edu/athletics

5. Central Florida

Outlook: Having lost its two top scorers, Ray Abellard and Ed Dotson, UCF will need help from newcomers and more points from Robert Morentin and Dexter Lyons. Lyons, one of the best all-around players in the league, can handle his load. Most important, the Golden Knights must play the solid defense and display the rebounding that made the difference last season.

Coach: Kirk Speraw (146-148, 10 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Troy Lindbeck, 6-2/So. (35.0 3PT%, 78.8 FT%); G Dexter Lyons, 6-5/Sr. (5.0 rpg, 46.9 FG%, 75.3 FT%); C Robert Morentin, 6-9/Sr. (10.2 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 49.2 FG%, 75.8 FT%); F Marcus Avant, 6-7/Jr. (JC transfer); F Josh Bodden, 6-9/Sr. (42.2 FG%, 42.3 3PT%, 75.0 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Orlando.

Home court: UCF Arena (5,100).

Website: www.ucfathletics.com

6. Florida Atlantic

Outlook: Mike Bell is a stud who started out at North Carolina State. The addition of Bell and Pierre Tucker gives FAU a frontline presence. Jeff Cowans and Earnest Crumbley form a solid backcourt. Coach Sidney Green needs to get these guys in shape because depth will be a problem.

Coach: Sidney Green (35-85, 4 years; 81-145 overall, 8 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Jeff Cowans, G, 6-2/Sr. (14.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 40.2 FG%); G Earnest Crumbley, 5-10/Sr. (16.1 ppg, 4.7 apg, 36.9 3PT%, 79.7 FT%); C Mike Bell, 6-9/Jr. (JC transfer); F Wes Edwards, 6-8/Sr. (46.2 3PT%); F Pierre Tucker, 6-6/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Boca Raton, Fla.

Home court: FAU Gym (5,000).

Website: www.fausports.com

7. Stetson

Outlook: Though Stetson has E.J. Gordon, league freshman of the year, the Hatters can't expect to jump on his back. They must play defense.

Stetson allowed league foes to score 82.2 points a game and shoot 52.0 percent in 2002-03. Boris Djordjic and Mark Stiles should help the defense.

As much as Stetson wants to rely on Gordon, the key could be new point guard Anthony Register.

Coach: Derek Waugh (29-44, 3 years).

Projected starters: G E.J. Gordon, 6-4/So. (14.7 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 41.1 FG%); G Anthony Register, 6-2/So. (36.3 3PT%); C Mark Stiles, 6-8/Jr. (10.3 ppg, 5.7 rpg); F Kevin Craig, 6-6/Sr. (4.5 rpg); F Boris Djordjic, 6-8/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: DeLand, Fla.

Home court: Edmunds Center (5,000).

Website: www.stetson.edu/offices/athletics

8. Gardner-Webb

Outlook: The Runnin' Bulldogs ran out of gas a lot last season, losing eight games when they led or were tied in the final minute. Though the Bulldogs

return 70 percent of their scoring, leader Otis Daniels (11.8 ppg, 6.1 rpg) left. In its second year in the league and as a full-fledged D-I member, Gardner-Webb won't play in the league tournament.

Coach: Rick Scruggs (5-24, 1 year Division I).

Projected starters: G Chris Wiggins, 6-5/Sr. (35.4 3PT%, 80.0 FT%); G Andre Manning, 6-1/So.; C Tim Behrendorff, 6-11/Sr. (10.5 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 54.2 FG%, 80.0 FT%); F Brendan Clowry, 6-6/Sr. (4.9 rpg, 53.9 FG%); F Brian Bender, 6-6/So.

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Boiling Springs, N.C.

Home court: Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center (5,500).

Website: www.gwusports.com

9. Jacksonville

Outlook: No starters return, and only three players who saw any time last season are back. Transfer Jure Lozancic, a Croatian, averaged only 7.8 points and 5.4 rebounds last season. That means much of the pressure will fall on Haminn Quaintance, who will be a freshman trying to lead a club.

Coach: Hugh Durham (77-91, 6 years; 604-401 overall, 35 years; 8-8 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Woury Diallo, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC transfer); G Aubrey Conerly, 6-0/So. (JC transfer); C Jure Lozancic, 7-0/Jr. (JC transfer); F Jarred Stockton, 6-5/R-F; F Haminn Quaintance, 6-7/Fr.

Last regular-season title: 1986 (Sun Belt).

Last NCAA appearance: 1986.

Site: Jacksonville.

Home court: Swisher Gymnasium (1,500).

Website: www.judolphins.com

10. Lipscomb

Outlook: Lipscomb has a solid nucleus returning, but the Bisons are a player or two short of being consistent. Their uptempo game will allow them to be competitive with the other run-and-gun teams, but they don't have the depth to go with them for 40 minutes. The key will be 3-point shooting—the Bisons shot 39 percent from long range last year.

Coach: Scott Sanderson (14-41, 2 years Division I).

Projected starters: G James Poindexter, 6-1/So. (43.3 3PT%, 88.0 FG%); G O'Brian Lowe, 6-4/Jr. (JC transfer); C Albert Hacker, 6-10/Sr. (4.6 rpg, 50.0 FG%); F Chad Hartman, 6-8/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 56.1 FG%); F Matt Jarboe, 6-7/Jr. (4.4 rpg, 44.9 FG%, 45.9 3PT%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Nashville.

Home court: Allen Arena (5,028).

Website: www.lipscombsports.com

11. Campbell

Outlook: Few coaches would like starting three true freshmen. But there's no pressure on new coach Robbie Laing, a Troy State graduate. Laing hopes to pressure opponents into mistakes and surprise them with an uptempo game. Campbell allowed 78.1 ppg on 50.3 percent shooting in the conference last season—that must change.

Coach: Robbie Laing (1st year).

Projected starters: G Tarick Johnson, 6-4/Sr. (17.1 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 46.1 FG%, 35.9 3PT%); G Anthony Atkinson, 5-10/Fr.; C Kevin Chester, 6-8/Fr.; F Dominique Klein, 6-6/Jr. (42.5 FG%); F Colin Hunt, 6-8/Fr.

Last regular-season title: 1992 (Big South).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Buies Creek, N.C.

Home court: Carter Gym (945).

Website: www.campbell.edu/athletics

Ivy Rank 22

By Mark Eckel, The Times (Trenton, N.J.)

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jeff Schiffner, Pennsylvania	6-6	210	Sr.
G	Ka'Ron Barnes, Cornell	6-0	188	Sr.
G	Jason Forte, Brown	6-1	165	Jr.
C	Judson Wallace, Princeton	6-8	220	Jr.
F	Tim Begley, Pennsylvania	6-5	210	Jr.

Player of the year

Judson Wallace

When Princeton wins the league, the Tigers have a dominant center. Or is it when the Tigers have a dominant center, they win the league? In either case, if the Tigers get back to the NCAA Tournament, it will be because of Wallace. He came on strong at the end of last season, averaging 18 points over the final eight games, including a 22-point, 8-for-13 shooting effort against league champ Penn. He had four points in an early-season game against the Quakers.

Newcomer of the year

Harrison Schaen, F, Princeton

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Pennsylvania*	14	0	22	5
Brown^	12	2	17	11
Princeton	10	4	16	11
Yale	8	6	14	13
Harvard	4	10	12	15
Cornell	4	10	9	18
Dartmouth	4	10	8	19
Columbia	0	14	2	25

*Lost to Oklahoma State in NCAA East first round.

^Lost to Virginia in NIT first round.

1. Princeton*

Outlook: If forward Andre Logan is healthy after battling a torn ACL, the Tigers will get a needed boost in their frontcourt. If center Judson Wallace can dominate like he did the second half of last season, the Tigers will be able to revolve their offense around him. And if coach John Thompson's recruiting class, led by forward Harrison Schaen, can make an immediate impact, the Tigers can go on another long run.

Coach: John Thompson (48-34, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Will Venable, 6-2/Jr. (10.6 ppg, 48.3 FG%, 76.7 FT%); G Ed Persia, 6-1/Sr. (46.0 FG%, 40.4 3PT%); C Judson Wallace, 6-8/Jr. (10.5 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 46.7 FG%, 36.1 3PT%); F Harrison Schaen, 6-8/Fr.; F Brian Elbogen, 6-7/Fr.

Last regular-season title: 2002 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Princeton, N.J.

Home court: Jadwin Gym (6,854).

Website: www.goprincetontigers.com

2. Pennsylvania

Outlook: Guard Jeff Schiffner and forward Tim Begley, the most experienced players, will be asked to carry the Quakers' offense. Center Adam Chubb, who has waited for his chance, could have a breakout season. The frontcourt could be the key for the Quakers, who have good depth in the backcourt with Ibbi Jabbar and Patrick Hadden, who was injured most of his freshman season.

Coach: Fran Dunphy (253-135, 14 years; 1-7 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Jeff Schiffner, 6-6/Sr. (11.4 ppg, 45.4 FG%, 49.3 3PT%, 88.2 FT%); G Charlie Copp, 6-0/Sr.; C Adam Chubb, 6-9/Sr. (51.2 FG%); F Tim Begley, 6-5/Jr. (4.6 rpg, 45.8 FG%, 43.1 3PT%); F Jon Fikie, 6-10/Jr. (42.9 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.

Site: Philadelphia.

Home court: The Palestra (8,700).

Website: www.pennathletics.com

3. Yale

Outlook: The Bulldogs were the league's biggest disappointment last season with an 8-6 league record. Coach James Jones returns the core and adds center Dominick Martin. Martin's presence inside could be the difference for the Bulldogs, who are set in the backcourt with Edwin Draughan and Alex Gamboa and have versatile Matt Minoff.

Coach: James Jones (52-61, 4 years).

Projected starters: G Edwin Draughan, 6-5/Jr. (11.4 ppg, 41.9 FG%, 39.3 3PT%); G Alex Gamboa, 6-1/Jr. (38.0 3PT%); C Dominick Martin, 6-10/So. (transfer/Princeton); F Paul Vitelli, 6-8/Sr. (4.3 rpg); F Matt Minoff, 6-6/Sr. (6.2 rpg, 46.3 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2002 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1962.

Site: New Haven, Conn.

Home court: John J. Lee Amphitheater (3,100).

Website: www.yale.edu/athletic

4. Cornell

Outlook: This might be the most talented team in Ithaca since the 1988 NCAA Tournament squad. The Big Red went 3-1 on a spring trip to Australia and got big-time scoring (29.7 ppg) from Cody Toppert. And with Ka'Ron Barnes, Lenny Collins and underrated Eric Taylor, the Big Red has a formidable offensive attack. If the defense (sixth in the league last season) improves, the Big Red might be a sleeper.

Coach: Steve Donahue (21-60, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Ka'Ron Barnes, 6-0/Sr. (14.0 ppg, 4.0 apg, 42.2 FG%); G Cody Toppert, 6-4/Jr. (4.3 rpg, 40.8 FG%); C Gabe Stephenson, 6-8/Sr. (40.0 3PT%); F Lenny Collins, 6-6/So. (5.1 rpg, 41.5 FG%, 36.5 3PT%, 80.0 FT%); F Eric Taylor, 6-8/Jr. (12.7 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 55.8 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1988.

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Ithaca, N.Y.

Home court: Newman Arena (4,473).

Website: www.cornellbigred.com

5. Brown

Outlook: The first thing coach Glen Miller must do is to find a go-to player to replace Earl Hunt, who led the Bears to the NIT last season and was league player of the year. Senior guard Mike Martin is a possibility, and so is sophomore forward Pat Powers. No matter who steps up, point guard Jason Forte, the Ivy's top playmaker, will get him the ball. The Bears lack size inside, which will put more pressure on the backcourt.

Coach: Glen Miller (57-53, 4 years).

Projected starters: G Jason Forte, 6-1/Jr. (13.0 ppg, 5.3 apg, 75.1 FT%); G Mike Martin, 6-5/Sr. (43.8 FG%, 40.5 3PT%, 81.0 FT%); F Pat Powers, 6-7/Sr. (4.2 rpg, 43.7 FG%, 40.5 3PT%, 80.0 FT%); F Jaime Kilburn, 6-5/Sr. (66.2 FG%); F G.J. King, 6-7/Jr. (41.5 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1986.

Last NCAA appearance: 1986.

Site: Providence, R.I.

Home court: Pizitola Center (2,800).

Website: www.brownbears.com

6. Dartmouth

Outlook: The good news is of the top eight players on the roster, only one, center Scott Klingbeil, is a senior. This team will improve. But the Green probably is too green to crack the top half of the league standings. Guards Steve Callahan and Mike McLaren have the makings of a nice backcourt, and coach Dave Faucher could go with a huge frontcourt if he decides to play 6-10 David Gardner and 6-11 Klingbeil together.

Coach: Dave Faucher (133-183, 12 years).

Projected starters: G Steve Callahan, 6-3/Jr. (42.7 FG%, 38.2 3PT%); G Mike McLaren, 6-3/Jr. (41.2 FG%, 39.7 3PT%); C David Gardner, 6-10/Jr. (45.9 FG%); F Mike Lang, 6-3/So. (40.9 FG%); F Calvin Arnold, 6-9/So. (46.4 3PT%).

Last regular-season title: 1959 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1959.

Site: Hanover, N.H.

Home court: The Leeds Arena (2,100).

Website: www.dartmouth.edu/athletics

7. Harvard

Outlook: If ever a team was in a rebuilding mode, it's the Crimson. Four juniors and big sophomore Brian Cusworth form the lineup. There is promise in freshman forward Brian Darcy and sophomore Zach Martin, who will be asked to contribute right away off the bench. But Cusworth is the best reason to watch the Crimson.

Coach: Frank Sullivan (137-177, 12 years; 251-263 overall, 19 years).

Projected starters: G Jason Norman, 6-3/Jr. (54.4 FG%, 40.6 3PT%); G David Giovacchini, 6-1/Jr. (45.0 FG%, 75.0 3PT%); G Kevin Rogus, 6-4/Jr. (77.8 FT%); C Brian Cusworth, 6-10/So. (50.0 FG%); F Graham Beatty, 6-8/Jr. (48.9 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1946.

Site: Cambridge, Mass.

Home court: Lavietes Pavilion (2,195).

Website: gocrimson.ocsn.com

8. Columbia

Outlook: After seeing James Jones resurrect Yale from doormat status to league contender, Columbia hired his brother, Joe. Joe Jones is known as a strong recruiter, especially in the New York area, which bodes well for the Lions' future. As for the present, don't expect miracles. The team lacks size and scoring punch.

Coach: Joe Jones (1st year).

Projected starters: G Jeremiah Boswell, 6-3/Jr. (38.0 3PT%); G Maurice Murphy, 6-0/Sr.; C Dragutin Kravic, 6-8/So. (40.0 FG%, 38.1 3PT%); F Matt Land, 6-6/Jr. (38.9 3PT%, 75.0 FT%); F Chris Owens, 6-5/Sr. (75.0 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1968.

Last NCAA appearance: 1968.

Site: New York.

Home court: Levian Gym (3,400).

Website: www.gocolumbiaions.com

Big Sky

Rank 23

By Jim Burton, Ogden (Utah) Standard-Examiner

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Kevin Criswell, Montana	6-2	185	So.
G	Alvin Snow, E. Washington	6-2	215	Sr.
F	Slobodan Ockoljic, Weber St.	6-8	235	Sr.
F	Marc Axton, E. Washington	6-7	225	Jr.
F	Scott Henry, Idaho State	6-7	200	Sr.

Player of the year

Slobodan Ockoljic

Ockoljic had a tough season in 2002-03. First, he had trouble getting back into the country after a trip home to Serbia. Then, he had a sprained ankle. He didn't round into form until January, but he dominated the conference. He averaged 17.6 points and 8.9 rebounds in Big Sky play, and the Wildcats won 17 of their last 18 games. Ockoljic's biggest challenge will be staying out of foul trouble, especially when faced with double- and triple-teams down low.

Newcomer of the year

John Seyfert, C, Montana

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Weber State*	14	0	26	5
Eastern Washington^	9	5	18	12
Idaho State	7	7	15	14
Montana	7	7	13	17
Northern Arizona	6	8	15	13
Sacramento State	5	9	12	17
Montana State	5	9	11	16
Portland State	3	11	5	22

*Lost to Wisconsin in NCAA Midwest first round.

^Lost to Wyoming in NIT first round.

1. Weber State*

Outlook: The Wildcats set a high standard, going 14-0 in the Big Sky and winning 17 straight before falling to Wisconsin in the NCAA Tournament. But coach Joe Cravens lost six seniors, including conference MVP Jermaine Boyette. Still, power forward Slobodan Ockoljic is the league's most complete player, and all-Big Sky forward Nic Sparrow is an excellent scorer and defender. Newcomer Lance Allred, a transfer from Utah, should make an impact in the middle. If the Wildcats find a point guard to replace Boyette, Cravens will be pleased.

Coach: Joe Cravens (77-41, 4 years; 131-94 overall, 8 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Jamaal Jenkins, 6-3/So.; G John Hamilton, 6-3/Sr. (76.8 FT%); F Nic Sparrow, 6-4/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 50.2 3PT%); F Slobodan Ockoljic, 6-8/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 8.4 rpg, 46.3 3PT%); C Lance Allred, 6-11/Jr. (transfer/Utah).

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Ogden, Utah.

Home court: Dee Events Center (12,000).

Website: http://departments.weber.edu/athletics/

2. Eastern Washington

Outlook: All-conference forward Chris Hester will be missed, but there is plenty of talent ready to step up. Senior guard Alvin Snow returns, and so does last year's do-it-all sophomore Marc Axton and his nearly double-digit scoring average. The Eagles could be somewhat vulnerable on the inside. That could prove costly because there are a number of good centers in the conference.

Coach: Ray Giacoletti (52-37, 3 years; 100-70 overall, 6 years).

Projected starters: G Brendon Merritt, 6-4/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 43.5 FG%, 75.6 FT%); G Alvin Snow, 6-2/Sr. (13.5 ppg, 3.8 apg, 49.1 FG%, 80.4 FT%); F Marc Axton, 6-7/Jr. (4.8 rpg, 35.2 3PT%, 78.8 FT%); F Khary Nicholas, 6-7/Jr. (JC transfer); C Gregg Smith, 6-10/Sr. (48.3 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Cheney, Wash.

Home court: Reese Court (5,000).

Website: http://athletics.ewu.edu/

3. Montana

Outlook: In his first year, Pat Kennedy led the Grizzlies to a 7-7 Big Sky record and picked up a surprising nonconference win over Stanford. He inherited some talented players, most notably senior all-conference guard David Bell and freshman of the year Kevin Criswell. This season, Kennedy gets the chance to work with some of his recruits, and the combination of those players and Criswell should add up to an even better season. Keep an eye out for center John Seyfert, a Montana native who transferred from Saint Louis in 2001.

Coach: Pat Kennedy (13-17, 1 year; 406-293 overall, 23 years; 6-8 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Derrick Mansell, 6-2/Sr.; G Kevin Criswell, 6-2/So. (15.1 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 80.3 FT%); F Steve Horne, 6-6/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 5.0 rpg); F Victor Venters, 6-8/Sr. (52.4 FG%); C John Seyfert, 6-9/So. (transfer/Saint Louis).

Last regular-season title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Missoula, Mont.

Home court: Dahlberg Arena (7,500).

Website: www.montanagrizzlies.com

4. Sacramento State

Outlook: A year ago, the Hornets were searching for their first conference road win since joining the Big Sky in 1996. But then came a win at Northern Arizona and another at Montana State. That led to a berth in the conference tournament, where Sacramento State surprised Montana in the first round. Freshman DaShawn Freeman is arguably the best young guard in the conference, and the team will benefit from the presence of forward Jameel Pugh.

Coach: Jerome Jenkins (26-58, 3 years).

Projected starters: G DaShawn Freeman, 5-11/So. (3.6 apg, 2.4 spg, 79.7 FT%); F Chris Lange, 6-8/So. (4.0 rpg, 40.0 FG%); F Jameel Pugh, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/Massachusetts); F Joel Jones, 6-6/Sr.; C Tony Champion, 6-10/Jr. (50.4 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Sacramento.

Home court: Hornet Gym (1,300).

Website: www.hornetsports.com

5. Idaho State

Outlook: There should be improvement with the return of senior Scott Henry, who came in as a jun-

ior college transfer and established a toughness on the boards and around the basket. He will be joined by sophomore guard David Schroeder, one of the league's most accurate outside shooters.

Coach: Doug Oliver (53-84, 5 years).

Projected starters: G Marquis Poole, 6-2/Sr. (10.2 ppg, 4.2 apg, 43.4 FG%); G David Schroeder, 6-2/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 46.1 FG%, 45.2 3PT%, 75.6 FT%); F Carl Lee, 6-5/Jr. (JC transfer); F Scott Henry, 6-7/Sr. (11.7 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 55.9 FG%); C Jesse Smith, 6-10/Sr. (40.5 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1994 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1987.

Site: Pocatello, Idaho.

Home court: Reed Gymnasium (3,040).

Website: www.isubengals.com

6. Montana State

Outlook: With the departure of leading scorer Pete Conway, top rebounder Casey Reynolds and surprising newcomer Shea Washington, who transferred, the Bobcats likely will struggle. Guard Jason Erickson, the team's most reliable player and the conference's player of the year in 2002, returns.

Coach: Mike Durham (203-171, 13 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Frank Brown, 6-2/Sr. (3.1 apg); G Jason Erickson, 6-3/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 3.1 apg, 45.9 FG%, 39.1 3PT%, 84.6 FT%); F Danny Faaborg, 6-5/Sr.; F Calvin Ento, 6-6/Sr. (48.4 FG%); C Bo Segeberg, 6-10/Sr. (4.6 rpg, 51.8 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Bozeman, Mont.

Home court: Worthington Arena (7,250).

Website: www.msucobcats.com

7. Portland State

Outlook: Expect the Vikings to improve, especially if senior forward Seamus Boxley bounces back after missing most of last season. The team will miss gritty point guard Jeb Ivey, but it will have a strong frontcourt led by senior Seth Scott.

Coach: Heath Schroyer (5-22, 1 year).

Projected starters: G Will Funn, 6-2/Jr. (JC transfer); G Blake Walker, 6-5/Jr. (JC transfer); F Antone Jarrell, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/Texas-El Paso); F Seamus Boxley, 6-7/Sr. (10.0 ppg, 5.5 rpg); F Seth Scott, 6-10/Sr. (12.4 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 47.5 FG%, 36.2 3PT%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Portland.

Home court: Stott Center (1,500).

Website: www.goviks.com

8. Northern Arizona

Outlook: Finding someone to replace All-Big Sky forward Ryan McDade won't be easy. On the upside, Northern Arizona returns small forward Aaron Bond and shooting guard Kelly Golob, who both averaged double figures in scoring last season.

Coach: Mike Adras (64-42, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Kyle Feuerbach, 6-1/Jr. (5.3 apg); G Kelly Golob, 6-5/Sr. (14.1 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 46.6 FG%, 42.9 3PT%, 88.5 FT%); F Kodiak Yazzie, 6-3/Sr. (4.5 rpg, 43.9 3PT%, 83.3 FT%); F Aaron Bond, 6-7/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 52.0 FG%, 50.0 3PT%, 81.7 FT%); C Joakim Kjellbom, 7-0/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Flagstaff, Ariz.

Home court: Walkup Skydome (7,000).

Website: www.nauathletics.com

Mid-Continent

Rank 24

By John Mutka, The Post-Tribune, Northwest Indiana

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Mike Helms, Oakland	6-0	185	Sr.
G	Michael Watson, UMKC	6-1	185	Sr.
G	Luke Spencer-Gardner, ORU	6-1	185	Sr.
F	Rawle Marshall, Oakland	6-7	190	Jr.
F	Odell Bradley, IUPUI	6-4	240	Sr.

Player of the year

Mike Helms

The prolific guard finished third in Division I scoring, reaching 30 or more points in 14 games. His work ethic carried over to defense, where he forced turnovers and battled hard for rebounds. "It's going to be a big year for Mike," Oakland coach Greg Kampe says. "His ability to score in so many ways makes it very hard to defend him. He has reaped all the personal awards one can probably reap. Now he has to make sure we make our team goals."

Newcomer of the year

Akeem Clark, G, IUPUI

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Valparaiso [^]	12	2	20	10
Oakland	10	4	17	11
IUPUI*	10	4	20	13
Oral Roberts	9	5	18	10
UM-Kansas City	7	7	9	20
Southern Utah	5	9	11	17
Western Illinois	3	11	7	21
Chicago State	0	14	3	27

*Lost to Kentucky in NCAA Midwest first round.

[^]Lost to Iowa in NIT opening round.

1. Oakland*

Outlook: The Golden Grizzlies pack a wallop with Mike Helms, Rawle Marshall and Courtney Scott. They combined for 59.5 points a game and led the league in several categories. Marshall, a Ball State transfer, was the league's newcomer and defensive player of the year, ranking first in steals per game. Scott topped Mid-Continent rebounders and shot 57 percent from the field. Virtually intact, the Grizzlies will be potent offensively but must upgrade their 3-point percentage of 33.1. Defensively, they must improve on the 74.4 points they gave up each game, and they also must stiffen a shaky perimeter defense; opponents shot 36.7 percent from beyond the arc. Point guard DeMarcus Ishmeal, who led his junior college team to a national championship, is a highly touted newcomer. Beating Valparaiso would send a clear message that the Grizzlies are genuine title candidates.

Coach: Greg Kampe (323-219, 19 years).

Projected starters: G DeMarcus Ishmeal, 5-9/Jr. (JC transfer); G Mike Helms, 6-0/Sr. (26.9 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 45.2 FG%, 37.9 3PT%, 74.5 FT%); C Jordan Sabourin, 7-0/Sr. (58.7 FG%); F Rawle Marshall, 6-7/Jr. (18.1 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 44.1 FG%, 77.0 FT%); F Courtney Scott, 6-6/Jr. (14.5 ppg, 8.7 rpg, 57.0 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Rochester, Mich.

Home court: Athletics Center 'O'rena (4,005).

Website: www.ougrizzlies.com

2. Valparaiso

Outlook: Coach Scott Drew's departure for Baylor just a week before classes began could have been disastrous, but the Crusaders didn't skip a beat. His father, Homer, returns after a one-year hiatus as special assistant to the president. In the previous 14 years, the elder Drew guided the Crusaders to seven Mid-Con titles and six NCAA appearances. The new/old coach's task is to replace three-time all-conference standout Raitis Grafts. The 6-11 center was a four-year starter who graduated as VU's No. 4 scorer (1,621 points) and No. 3 rebounder (841). As usual the Crusaders will be internationally flavored. Kenny Harris of nearby Griffith is the most intriguing recruit. The 6-10 center packs almost as much potential as weight, which peaked at 400-plus pounds before rigorous dieting kicked in. Strong defenders Ron Howard, a 6-5 transfer from Marquette, and freshman Jimmie Miles will speed up the tempo, but it will take time to find a go-to-scorer.

Coach: Homer Drew (236-184, 14 years in previous stint; 5-6 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Jimmie Miles, 6-2/Fr.; G Roberto Nieves, 6-4/Sr. (40.4 3PT%); G/F Ali Berdiel, 6-6/Jr. (4.7 apg); F Joaquim Gomes, 6-9/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 5.6 rpg); F Dan Oppland, 6-8/Sr.

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Valparaiso, Ind.

Home court: Athletics-Recreation Center (5,000).

Website: www.valpo.edu/athletics

3. Oral Roberts

Outlook: Losing Cameron Tragardh in July was an unexpected blow. He bolted to a pro team in his native Australia, depriving the Golden Eagles of a dependable inside threat. Tragardh was expected to step up for Reggie Borges, ORU's departed leading scorer. Coach Scott Sutton hopes Matt Gastel can be a force in the middle with added strength and improved shooting, and Tragardh's absence should translate into significant minutes for freshmen Yerni Ogunoye and Caleb Green and junior college transfer Schuyler Thomas. Old reliable Luke Spencer-Gardner, a three-year starter who led the league in floor burns, will run the point.

Coach: Scott Sutton (58-60, 4 years).

Projected starters: G Luke Spencer-Gardner, 6-1/Sr. (12.0 ppg, 5.9 apg, 41.6 FG%, 37.3 3PT%, 85.2 FT%); G Josh Atkinson, 6-3/Sr. (43.1 FG%, 44.4 3PT%, 75.0 FT%); G Jonathan Bluiitt, 5-9/Sr. (44.0 FG%, 45.2 3PT%, 78.2 FT%); C Matt Gastel, 6-11/Jr. (50.0 3PT%, 51.3 FT%); F Schuyler Thomas, 6-9/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 1999 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1984.

Site: Tulsa, Okla.

Home court: Mabey Center (10,775).

Website: orugoldeneagles.com

4. IUPUI

Outlook: Six departed players, including three double-figure scorers, cast doubts on IUPUI's ability to defend its league tournament title, but flamboyant coach Ron Hunter is restocking the cupboard. Matt Crenshaw, 28, who stunned Valparaiso with a fade-away jumper in the last second of the title game to produce IUPUI's first NCAA bid, might be the oldest point guard in Division I. Odell Bradley is the only holdover who averaged double figures, but Hunter acquired junior college standouts Akeem Clark and James Booyer. Hunter also plucked freshman guard David Barlow from an Indiana state championship team. Rebounding could trouble the Jaguars, who are short but compensate with wide bodies.

Coach: Ron Hunter (136-124, 9 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Matt Crenshaw, 6-3/Sr. (4.2 apg, 47.2 FG%, 76.4 FT%); G Akeem Clark, 6-3/Jr. (JC transfer); C James Booyer, 6-8/Jr. (JC transfer); F Odell Bradley, 6-4/Sr. (14.7 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 48.2 FG%); F Dannorris Harvey, 6-6/Sr. (4.5 rpg, 75.0 FT%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Indianapolis.

Home court: IUPUI Gymnasium (1,800).

Website: www.iupui.edu/jagsports

5. Missouri-Kansas City

Outlook: Coming off their best season since joining the Mid-Con, the Kangaroos should get the jump on opponents with three returning starters, including Carlton Aaron, who set a school rebounding record with five straight games in double digits. Despite Aaron's formidable presence and Brandon Lipsey playing next to him, UMKC ranked last in the league in rebounding. Guard Michael Watson will push Oakland's Mike Helms for league player of the year. Watson is UMKC's No. 2 all-time scorer and is a solid defender who led the team in steals.

Coach: Rich Zvosec (27-31, 2 years; 130-179 overall, 12 years).

Projected starters: G Michael Watson, 6-1/Sr. (25.5 ppg, 3.8 apg, 35.0 3PT%, 75.3 FT%); G Brandon Temple, 6-1/Sr.; C Carlton Aaron, 6-9/Jr. (7.7 rpg, 51.1 FG%); F Brandon Lipsey, 6-8/So. (5.3 rpg, 44.5 FG%, 35.7 3PT%); F Mike English, 6-4/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Kansas City, Mo.

Home court: Municipal Auditorium (9,827).

Website: www.umkcangaroos.com

6. Southern Utah

Outlook: Coach Bill Evans will rewind last season's roster of nine junior college players. Newcomers Tim Gainey and DeAngelo Newsom were recruited to beef up the squad, and they will team with veterans David Palmer and Robbie Warren. The Thunderbirds will look to the versatile Palmer, who led the conference in 3-point accuracy, for leadership. Their only returning scorer in double figures, Palmer made the Mid-Con all-tournament team. Warren and Jason Baker will turn the screws on a tenacious matchup zone.

Coach: Bill Evans (160-156, 12 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Jason Baker, 6-2/Jr.; C Robbie Warren, 6-8/Sr. (54.9 FG%); F DeAngelo Newsom, 6-5/Jr. (JC transfer); F Tim Gainey, 6-6/Jr. (JC transfer); F David Palmer, 6-7/Sr. (11.7

ppg, 4.5 rpg, 47.1 FG%, 45.7 3PT%, 80.4 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 2001 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Cedar City, Utah.

Home court: Centrum (5,300).

Website: www.suu.edu/athletics

7. Centenary

Outlook: As Mid-Con newcomers, the Gents will rely on such veterans as senior guard Andrew Wisniewski, who has led them in scoring and assists the last two seasons, and Josh Thibodeaux, who supplies perimeter shooting. Unless Shawn Davis and Chad MacLies receive help from freshmen Stanley Turner and Troy Williams, rebounding will be a king-sized handicap. Sharpshooting transfer Cody Hopkins adds an offensive dimension.

Coach: Kevin Johnson (46-64, 4 years).

Projected starters: G Andrew Wisniewski, 6-3/Sr. (22.0 ppg, 4.4 apg, 50.4 FG%, 36.1 3PT%, 83.3 FT%); G Michael Gale, 6-4/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 51.7 FG%, 77.3 FT%); G/F Demario Hooper, 6-4/Sr. (43.4 FG%); F Chad MacLies, 6-6/Jr. (41.2 FG%); F Shawn Davis, 6-7/Sr. (10.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 49.5 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Shreveport, La.

Home court: Gold Dome (3,000).

Website: www.centenary.edu/athletics

8. Western Illinois

Outlook: The Crusaders have dropped off the radar and are trying to avoid their fifth consecutive losing season. It won't be easy for coach Derek Thomas, who prepped for the challenge as Charlie Spoonhour's aide at UNLV, which was 21-11 last season. Thomas will guide the league's smallest team, particularly if 5-9 freshman T.J. Gray starts at guard. Inside scoring will be a major concern. Andre Charles, Western's tallest player at 6-8, averaged 3.3 points last season. Six of the team's top nine players return, including versatile J.D. Summers.

Coach: Derek Thomas (1st year).

Projected starters: G Doyle Cole, 6-5/Jr. (JC transfer); G T. J. Gray, 5-9/Fr.; F J.D. Summers, 6-3/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 42.6 FG%, 40.1 3PT%, 80.5 FT%); F Will Lewis, 6-6/Jr. (11.4 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 45.3 FG%); F Bobby Carter, 6-3/Sr. (75.0 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 1983.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Macomb, Ill.

Home court: Western Hall (5,137).

Website: www.wiu.edu/athletics

9. Chicago State

Outlook: The Cougars own twin burdens of a 20-game losing streak and 31 straight defeats on the road, but they'll regroup around Craig Franklin, who made the all-newcomer team. He and Ruben Perry will share the offensive burden, but the Cougars will need reinforcements to improve a 63.2 scoring average. Turnovers and ragtag play were major weaknesses, which is why CSU hasn't won in the league since the 2000-2001 season.

Coach: Kevin Jones (0-12, 1 year).

Projected starters: G Geoff Richard, 5-10/Sr.; G Craig Franklin, 6-3/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 3.9 apg, 42.9 FG%); C Ruben Perry, 6-8/Sr. (4.9 rpg, 47.5 FG%, 46.2 3PT%); F Tony Hansbro, 6-4/Sr. (42.2 FG%, 66.7 3PT%); F Nate Carter, 6-8/So.

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Chicago.

Home court: Jacoby Dickens Center (2,500).

Website: www.csu.edu/athletics

Patriot

Rank 25

By Michael Bradley, free-lance writer

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jave Meade, Holy Cross	6-1	195	Sr.
G	Mark Linebaugh, Colgate	6-2	191	Sr.
G	Justin DeBerry, Lafayette	6-3	190	Sr.
F	Howard Blue, Colgate	6-7	240	Sr.
F	Jernavis Draughn, American	6-5	205	Sr.

Player of the year

Jave Meade

If Holy Cross is to three-peat as Patriot champ—and we're picking the Crusaders to do just that—Meade must be huge. So far, he has distinguished himself as a superb setup man. But he won't be feeding his teammates as often this season because of their inexperience. Look for him to finish his penetration with a shot rather than a pass. And don't forget Meade's defense. He led the league in steals last season by a large margin.

Newcomer of the year

Linus Lekavicius, G, American

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Holy Cross*	13	1	26	5
American	9	5	16	14
Colgate	9	5	14	14
Lehigh	8	6	16	12
Bucknell	7	7	14	15
Lafayette	6	8	13	16
Navy	4	10	8	20
Army	0	14	5	22

*Lost to Marquette in NCAA Midwest first round.

1. Holy Cross*

Outlook: The Crusaders suffered some huge losses, among them Patriot Player of the Year Patrick Whearty, but expect them to keep rolling. Senior point man Jave Meade will drive the train, dishing and scoring in equal doses. Providing the elongated yin to his speedy yang is junior Nate Lufkin, now ready for a full-time role inside. Expect guard Greg Kinsey to lock down opponents' top scorers, and versatile John Hurley will play three or four positions and try to make more shots. Sophomore guard Kevin Hamilton played well enough at the end of last year to make the all-tournament team, and 6-4 freshman Keith Simmons is a superb athlete who should get big minutes immediately.

Coach: Ralph Willard (76-46, 4 years; 220-170 overall, 13 years; 2-5 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Jave Meade, 6-1/Sr. (10.5 ppg, 6.2 apg, 47.7 FG%, 36.1 3PT%); G Kevin Hamilton, 6-4/So.; G Greg Kinsey, 6-4/Jr.; C Nate Lufkin, 6-11/Jr. (61.5 FG%); F John Hurley, 6-8/Jr.

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Worcester, Mass.

Home court: Hart Recreation Center (3,600).

Website: www.holycross.edu/athletics

2. Colgate

Outlook: The Red Raiders return as much firepower as any team in the league. Senior guard Mark Linebaugh has a good long-range shooting touch and is a solid ballhandler, and senior forward Howard Blue is potent close to the basket. Expect further development from junior center Andrew Zidar, who is limited in mobility but wide. The big question for the Raiders is at point guard, where Dave Hardy must be replaced.

Coach: Emmett Davis (71-70, 5 years).

Projected starters: G Mark Linebaugh, 6-2/Sr. (13.1 ppg, 42.6 FG%, 38.8 3PT%, 80.0 FT%); G Alvin Reed, 6-1/Sr.; F Josh Humphreys, 6-5/Sr.; F Howard Blue, 6-7/Sr. (12.5 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 51.9 FG%, 42.1 3PT%); F/C Andrew Zidar, 6-8/Jr. (5.0 rpg, 45.0 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1996 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Hamilton, N.Y.

Home court: Cotterell Court (3,091).

Website: www.gocolgateraiders.com

3. Lafayette

Outlook: If coach Fran O'Hanlon finds a point guard, things could get interesting in Easton. Whoever gets the job—freshman Marcus Harley or Grant Gibson—will pile up assists as long as he passes the ball to senior wings Justin DeBerry and Winston Davis. Both players can hit the 3-pointer or take the ball to the basket.

Coach: Fran O'Hanlon (123-107, 8 years).

Projected starters: G Justin DeBerry, 6-3/Sr. (16.3 ppg, 41.1 FG%, 37.5 3PT%, 86.1 FT%); G Winston Davis, 6-6/Sr. (13.8 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 45.0 FG%, 37.9 3PT%); G Marcus Harley, 5-11/Fr.; F Rob Dill, 6-10/Sr. (5.7 rpg, 56.7 FG%); F Mike Farrell, 6-8/Sr. (6.6 rpg, 55.0 FG%, 42.1 3PT%).

Last regular-season title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Easton, Pa.

Home court: Kirby Sports Center (3,500).

Website: www.goleopards.com

4. American

Outlook: The Eagles must replace two top scorers (Steven Miles and Glenn Stokes) and become more effective rebounding. Expect senior forward Jernavis Draughn, who has a soft touch around the basket, to step up as the top producer. Andres Rodriguez is a superior passer and decision-maker who shows quick hands on defense. He'll team with heralded freshman Linas Lekavicius, a lights-out shooter.

Coach: Jeff Jones (41-46, 3 years; 187-150 overall, 11 years; 5-5 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Andres Rodriguez, 5-11/Sr. (4.8 apg, 44.8 FG%, 35.9 3PT%); G Linas Lekavicius, 6-1/Fr.; G Jason Thomas, 6-3/Jr. (41.9 FG%, 37.9 3PT%); F Jernavis Draughn, 6-5/Sr. (4.9 rpg, 57.3 FG%); F/C Matej Cresnik, 6-8/Jr. (38.0 3PT%, 80.7 FT%).

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Washington, D.C.

Home court: Bender Arena (4,500).

Website: www.aueagles.com

5. Lehigh

Outlook: The Mountain Hawks shocked Patriot analysts by vaulting to fourth place last season. But the loss of four starters will make an encore difficult. Help arrives in the form of Delaware transfer Austen Rowland, an all-around guard who likely

will team with senior Ra Tiah to form a dynamic, versatile backcourt.

Coach: Billy Taylor (16-12, 1 year).

Projected starters: G Austen Rowland, 6-1/Sr. (transfer/Delaware); G Ra Tiah, 5-11/Sr. (3.7 apg, 36.6 3PT%, 81.0 FT%); G/F Nick Monserrez, 6-5/Jr. (44.3 FG%); C Michael Fischman, 6-9/Sr. (50.0 FG%); F Dayne Mickelson, 6-8/Jr. (65.2 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1988 (East Coast).

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Bethlehem, Pa.

Home court: Stabler Arena (5,600).

Website: www.lehigh.edu

6. Bucknell

Outlook: The team managed just 58.2 ppg last season and lost top scorer Boakai Lalugba and point guard Dan Blankenship. Leading the charge for more production is sophomore Kevin Bettencourt, the league's top newcomer last season. He'll get help from wing Matt Quinn, but both must hope career reserve Chris Rodgers can handle the point.

Coach: Pat Flannery (135-121, 9 years; 230-164 overall, 14 years).

Projected starters: G Kevin Bettencourt, 6-2/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 83.6 FT%); G Matt Quinn, 6-5/Sr. (35.2 3PT%); G Chris Rodgers, 6-2/Sr. (83.3 FT%); C Davorin Skornik, 6-11/Sr. (54.2 FG%); F Tarik Vaier-McClymont, 6-7/Sr. (48.8 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1989.

Last NCAA appearance: 1989.

Site: Lewisburg, Pa.

Home court: Davis Gymnasium (2,300).

Website: www.bucknellbison.com

7. Navy

Outlook: Losing four starters will make it tough on the Midshipmen. Figure senior Kwame Ofori for the point guard spot. He took fair care of the ball last year. If he doesn't shoot better, newcomer Will Mroz or senior Jason Fernandez could take his job. Sophomore Matt Fannin scored well inside and should get help from 7-0 freshman Thomas Knapp and sophomore Mike Higgins. Newcomer Calvin White (6-6) should contribute immediately.

Coach: Don DeVoe (179-138, 11 years; 507-366 overall, 30 years; 5-10 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Kwame Ofori, 6-0/Sr.; G David Hooper, 6-5/Sr. (41.5 FG%, 42.4 3PT%); G Marcell Cummings, 6-3/Jr.; F Matt Fannin, 6-7/Sr. (48.2 FG%); F Mike Higgins, 6-8/Sr.

Last regular-season title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Annapolis, Md.

Home court: Alumni Hall (5,710).

Website: www.navysports.com

8. Army

Outlook: Too bad 3-point specialist Andy Smith couldn't handle Jim Crews' way and bolted the team. What's left could be the start of something positive. Senior Josh Wilson has skills off the dribble and can post up smaller opponents. Senior Bill Mohr is a scrappy forward, and Mike Dames wants to play forward but has a point guard's body.

Coach: Jim Crews (5-22, 1 year; 299-231 overall, 18 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Sean O'Keefe, 6-3/Sr. (4.0 rpg, 80.0 FT%); G Mike Dames, 6-1/Sr. (45.5 FG%); G Josh Wilson, 6-5/Sr. (44.1 FG%); C Eric Engstrom, 6-8/Sr. (44.4 FG%); F Bill Mohr, 6-7/Sr. (40.9 FG%, 41.0 3PT%, 76.9 FT%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: West Point, N.Y.

Home court: Christi Arena (5,043).

Website: www.goarmysports.com

America East

Rank 26

By Andrew Neff, Bangor (Maine) Daily News

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	T.J. Sorrentine, Vermont	5-11	185	Jr.
G	Jerrell Parker, Hartford	6-4	210	Sr.
F	Taylor Coppenrath, Vermont	6-9	225	Jr.
F	Rashad Bell, Boston U.	6-8	203	Jr.
C	Nick Billings, Binghamton	7-0	235	Jr.

Player of the year

Taylor Coppenrath

Coppenrath tore a page out of teammate T.J. Sorrentine's playbook, getting named America East Rookie of the Year as a freshman and Player of the Year as a sophomore. Coppenrath is a matchup problem because he has the size to duke it out in the paint and the range to drop shots from 8 or 20 feet away. One-on-one, no defender in the league has an answer for Coppenrath, a West Barnet, Vt., native who stayed home after recruiters missed him.

Newcomer of the year

Marcus Barnes, G, Northeastern

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Boston U. [^]	13	3	20	10
Vermont*	11	5	21	11
Hartford	10	6	17	13
Binghamton	9	7	14	13
Northeastern	8	8	16	15
Maine	8	8	14	16
Stony Brook	7	9	13	16
Albany	3	13	7	21
New Hampshire	3	13	5	23

*Lost to Arizona in the NCAA West first round.

[^]Lost to St. John's in the NIT first round.

1. Vermont*

Outlook: The defending league champs boast the last two conference players of the year in Taylor Coppenrath and T.J. Sorrentine, healthy after breaking both wrists last season. Also back are starters David Hehn and Germain Njila.

Coach: Tom Brennan (217-260, 17 years; 269-335 overall, 22 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: F Taylor Coppenrath, 6-9/Jr. (20.1 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 46.2 FG%, 38.8 3PT%); G T.J. Sorrentine, 5-11/Jr.; G David Hehn, 6-5/Jr.; G/F Germain Njila, 6-4/Jr. (4.1 rpg, 43.9 FG%); F/C Scotty Jones, 6-7/Sr. (5.1 rpg, 56.5 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2002 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Burlington, Vt.

Home court: Roy L. Patrick Gym (3,228).

Website: www.uvmathletics.com

2. Northeastern

Outlook: Jamaar Walker, who boasted the league's top assist-to-turnover ratio, is gone, but the production of Marcus Barnes, who sat out last season after transferring from Miami, should more than make up for it.

Coach: Ron Everhart (23-36, 2 years; 115-140 overall, 9 years).

Projected starters: G Jose Juan Barea, 5-11/So. (17.0 ppg, 3.9 apg, 40.7 FG%, 78.5 FT%); G Marcus Barnes, 6-2/Jr. (transfer/Miami); G/F Javorie Wilson, 6-5/Sr. (14.6 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 42.8 FG%, 37.0 3PT%, 78.1 FT%); F/C Sylbrin Robinson, 6-7/Sr. (11.4 ppg, 9.1 rpg, 59.7 FG%, 50.0 3PT%); C Cornelius Wright, 6-6/Sr. (4.5 rpg, 53.2 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1991.

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: Boston.

Home court: Cabot Center (2,000).

Website: www.gonu.com

3. Boston University

Outlook: The team returns leading scorer Rashad Bell, one of the league's top backcourts in Matt Turner and Chaz Carr as well as solid frontcourt players in Bell, Ryan Butt and Jason Grochowalski.

Coach: Dennis Wolff (149-118, 9 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Chaz Carr, 6-0/Jr.; G Kevin Fitzgerald, 6-3/Sr. (43.5 FG%); G Matt Turner, 5-11/Sr. (81.8 FT%); F Rashad Bell, 6-8/Jr. (12.0 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 51.1 FG%, 35.1 3PT%, 79.4 FT%); F Ryan Butt, 6-8/Sr. (4.9 rpg, 49.5 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Boston.

Home court: Case Gymnasium (1,800).

Website: www.bu.edu/athletics

4. Maine

Outlook: The Black Bears feature the league's top 3-point shooter, Kevin Reed, and assist man, Eric Dobson. The athletic and physical Chris Markwood should provide scoring punch after an injury-plagued stint at Notre Dame.

Coach: John Giannini (105-101, 7 years).

Projected starters: G Eric Dobson, 6-3/Sr. (4.9 apg, 41.0 FG%); G Chris Markwood, 6-4/Jr. (transfer/Notre Dame); G Kevin Reed, 6-1/So. (12.4 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 42.6 FG%, 40.5 3PT%); F Joe Campbell, 6-6/Jr. (52.5 FG%); F David Dubois, 6-9/Sr. (46.7 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Orono, Maine.

Home court: Alfond Arena (5,712).

Website: goblackbears.com

5. Stony Brook

Outlook: All five starters return, including defensive standout D.J. Munir, who led the team in scoring despite missing the first seven games last season.

Coach: Nick Macarchuk (49-71, 4 years; 352-391 overall, 26 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G D.J. Munir, 6-3/Sr. (17.4 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 42.2 FG%; 35.8 3PT%, 88.8 FT%); G Bobby Santiago, 6-2/So. (3.6 apg); F Mike Konopka, 6-8/Sr. (4.1 rpg, 75.0 FT%); F Jairos McCollum, 6-5/Sr. (5.5 rpg, 47.3 FG%); F Cori Spencer, 6-7/Jr. (12.2 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 53.7 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Stony Brook, N.Y.

Home court: Indoor Sports Complex (4,103).

Website: www.goseawolves.org

6. Hartford

Outlook: A talented backcourt blessed with height and featuring returners Jerrell Parker, Ryan Stys

and Aaron Cook gives Hartford promise.

Coach: Larry Harrison (34-55, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Aaron Cook, 6-1/So. (35.6 3PT%, 81.2 FT%); G Jerrell Parker, 6-4/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 47.8 FG%, 35.3 3PT%); G Ryan Stys, 6-0/Sr. (3.0 apg, 82.4 FT%); F Trevor Goode, 6-9/Jr. (60.0 FG%); F Alex Zimnickas, 6-8/Fr.

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Hartford, Conn.

Home court: Chase Family Arena (3,977).

Website: www.hartfordhawks.com

7. Binghamton

Outlook: The Bearcats feature the premier big man in the conference in Nick Billings, who led the league in blocks last season.

Coach: Al Walker (37-46, 3 years; 179-217 overall, 15 years).

Projected starters: G Brandon Carter, 6-3/Sr. (48.3 FG%, 37.3 3PT%, 75.0 FT%); G Billy Williams, 6-3/Jr.; C Nick Billings, 7-0/Jr. (6.7 rpg, 4.3 bpg, 55.1 FG%); F Sebastian Hermenier, 6-6/So.; F Robert Todd, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/Air Force).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Vestal, N.Y.

Home court: West Gymnasium (2,275).

Website: athletics.binghamton.edu

8. New Hampshire

Outlook: Four-fifths of last season's starting rotation returns, but none averaged double figures in scoring. Shejdie Childs tailed off after a hot start, but his 9.4 ppg led the team.

Coach: Phil Rowe (26-86, 4 years).

Projected starters: G Marcus Bullock, 6-0/Sr.; G Shejdie Childs, 5-10/So. (49.6 FG%); G/F Ioannis Karalis, 6-4/So. (4.0 rpg, 42.4 FG%); G/F Griffin Walker, 6-4/Sr. (5.0 rpg); C Ben Sturgill, 6-7/Jr. (55.9 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Durham, N.H.

Home court: Lundholm Gymnasium (3,500).

Website: www.unhwildcats.com

9. Maryland-Baltimore County

Outlook: The Retrievers enter their first American East season with all five starters and three of their top four scorers back from a 7-20 campaign in the Northeast Conference.

Coach: Tom Sullivan (99-125, eight years).

Projected starters: G Rob Gogerty, 6-1/Jr.; G Kareem Washington, 6-3/Sr. (15.8 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 75.5 FT%); F/C Andrew Feeley, 6-9/Jr. (10.6 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 55.0 FT%); F Eugene Young, 6-8/Sr. (46.4 FG%); F John Zito, 6-6/So. (4.9 rpg, 45.5 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1999 (Northeast).

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Baltimore.

Home court: Retrievers Activities Center (4,000).

Website: www.umbcretrievers.com

10. Albany

Outlook: The team has a keystone in Jamar Wilson, last season's league rookie of the year. Levi Levine, Albany's third-leading scorer also returns.

Coach: Will Brown (14-34, 2 years).

Projected starters: G Jon Iati, 5-9/Fr.; G Jamar Wilson, 6-1/So. (18.9 ppg, 3.3 apg, 48.8 FG%, 35.9 3PT%, 81.5 FT%); F/C Jamal Hughes, 6-8/Jr. (JC transfer); F Levi Levine, 6-5/So. (13.2 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 43.0 FG%, 39.2 3PT%); F Chris Wyatt, 6-6/Jr.

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Albany, N.Y.

Home court: Recreation and Convocation Center (5,000).

Website: www.albany.edu/sports

Northeast

Rank 27

By Michael Bradley, free-lance writer

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Darshan Luckey, St. Francis (Pa.)	6-5	200	So.
G	Maurice Carter, Robert Morris	6-0	180	Jr.
G	Dwayne Byfield, Monmouth	6-2	175	Jr.
F	Ron Robinson, Central Conn. St.	6-7	215	Sr.
F	Chaz McCrommon, Robert Morris	6-6	190	Sr.

Player of the year

Darshan Luckey

He was the first freshman in NEC history to lead the league in scoring last season. And when you're a 6-5 guard who can get to the basket pretty much any time, there is ample opportunity for more success. The big question is whether he can boost his 38.3-percent shooting with a little restraint. If Luckey can become more efficient, particularly with a better supporting cast, he could be headed for three straight player of the year honors.

Newcomer of the year

DeMario Anderson, G, Central Conn. State

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Wagner*	14	4	21	10
Monmouth	13	5	15	13
Central Conn. State	12	6	15	13
Quinnipiac	10	8	17	12
St. Francis (Pa.)	10	8	14	14
Fairleigh Dickinson	9	9	15	14
St. Francis (N.Y.)	9	9	14	16
Robert Morris	7	11	10	17
Long Island	7	11	9	19
Mount St. Mary's	6	12	11	16
Sacred Heart	6	12	8	21
Md.-Baltimore Co.	5	13	7	20

*Lost to Pittsburgh in NCAA Midwest first round.

1. Monmouth*

Outlook: If Appalachian State transfer Brian Boxler can provide a similar interior presence to departed Kevin Owens, the 2002-03 NEC Defensive Player of the Year, the Hawks will be headed for their first league title. Four starters return, including top scorer and 3-point ace Dwayne Byfield, who must improve his shooting inside the arc. Sophomore Tyler Azzarelli was a solid assist man last year and can hit the 3, and wing Jason Krayl does a bit of everything. Forward Blake Hamilton is solid inside, and Tom Kaplan and Chris Kenny are solid backcourt reserves.

Coach: Dave Calloway (74-82, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Dwayne Byfield, 6-2/Jr. (15.1 ppg, 37.4 3PT%, 90.9 FT%); G Tyler Azzarelli, 6-1/So. (3.2 apg, 37.1 3PT%); C Brian Boxler, 6-11/Sr. (transfer/Appalachian State); F Blake

Hamilton, 6-7/Jr. (11.3 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 44.4 FG%); F Jason Krayl, 6-5/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 3.1 apg, 42.8 FG%).

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: West Long Branch, N.J.

Home court: Boyland Gym (2,500).

Website: www.monmouth.edu/athletics

2. St. Francis (Pa.)

Outlook: With four starters returning, including last year's top rookie, first-team all-NEC guard Darshan Luckey, the Red Flash is poised to take a strong run at the conference title. Luckey averaged 21.6 points, and anyone who saw him last year had to wonder why he wasn't playing at a higher level. The key could be a pair of guards, senior point Erick Wills and sophomore wing Rahsaan Benton.

Coach: Bobby Jones (39-71, 4 years).

Projected starters: G Erick Wills, 6-0/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 3.2 apg, 40.0 FG%, 36.3 3PT%); G Darshan Luckey, 6-5/So. (21.6 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 77.7 FT%); G Rahsaan Benton, 5-11/So.; C Jason Osbourne, 6-8/Jr. (10.0 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 51.3 FG%); F Rodney Gibson, 6-5/Jr. (44.6 FG%).

Last league title: 1991 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: Loretto, Pa.

Home court: Stokes Athletic Center (2,500).

Website: www.francis.edu/athletics

3. Quinnipiac

Outlook: Four starters are back, and the crop of newcomers includes reinforcements who should help right away. The big question is whether Q-Pac can play defense after allowing 73.8 ppg last year. The Bobcats certainly can score, beginning with the dynamic backcourt of senior Kason Mims, a scorer/distributor who plays great defense, and junior Rob Monroe, an accomplished 3-point man.

Coach: Joe DeSantis (73-120, 7 years).

Projected starters: G Kason Mims, 6-3/Sr. (13.4 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 4.7 apg, 42.2 FG%, 35.0 3PT%); G Rob Monroe, 5-10/Jr. (13.3 ppg, 4.3 apg, 36.4 3PT%, 77.6 FT%); C C.J. Vick, 6-9/Jr. (5.3 rpg, 53.4 FG%); F Rashaun Banjo, 6-6/Sr. (13.4 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 52.5 FG%, 39.4 3PT%, 77.3 FT%); F Pierre Faye, 6-9/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Hamden, Conn.

Home court: Kahn Court (1,500).

Website: www.quinnipiacathletics.com

4. Central Connecticut State

Outlook: Much depends on how well coach Howie Dickenman integrates a pair of part-time 2002-03 starters and two key newcomers with frontcourt stalwarts Ron Robinson and Rich Pittman. Robinson is on track to become a 1,000-point, 1,000-rebound man and is perhaps the NEC's best frontcourt force. Success in the backcourt depends on the development of Lenny Jefferson at the point. He'll team with Justin Chiera, a long-range threat, and wing newcomers DeMario Anderson, a scoring freshman, and redshirt freshman Antonio McMillion (eye injury).

Coach: Howie Dickenman (112-92, 6 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Lenny Jefferson, 6-0/So. (41.3 FG%, 81.8 FT%); G Justin Chiera, 6-1/So. (41.9 FG%, 42.7 3PT%); F Ron Robinson, 6-7/Sr. (12.4 ppg, 9.2 rpg, 52.4 FG%); F Rich Pittman, 6-6/Jr. (6.6 ppg, 55.6 FG%); F Rob Barrett, 6-7/Jr. (47.8 FG%).

Last league title: 2002.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: New Britain, Conn.

Home court: Detrick Gym (3,200).

Website: www.ccsbluedevils.com

5. Wagner

Outlook: If Wagner is to repeat as NEC champ, the senior trio of guards Courtney Pritchard and Teoine Carroll and forward Nigel Wyatte must become stalwarts. Pritchard is a steady distributor who must improve his outside shot, and the charismatic Carroll has good range on his jumper. Wyatte scores well in close and hits the boards well.

Coach: Mike Deane (1st year; 318-194 overall, 19 years; 2-4 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Teoine Carroll, 6-2/Sr. (43.2 FG%, 43.6 3PT%, 86.5 FT%); G Courtney Pritchard, 6-0/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 5.0 apg, 41.2 FG%, 43.6 3PT%, 86.5 FT%); G Doug Viegas, 6-6/Sr.; F Nigel Wyatte, 6-9/Sr. (11.4 ppg, 8.6 rpg, 46.2 FG%); F Sean Munson, 6-8/Jr. (4.7 rpg, 63.3 FG%, 81.5 FT%).

Last league title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Staten Island, N.Y.

Home court: Spiro Sports Center (2,100).

Website: www.wagner.edu/athletics

6. Robert Morris

Outlook: It couldn't have been too hard to lure junior college point guard Chris Gooden or freshman Derek Coleman, another point man, to RMU. Not with wing scorer Maurice Carter and forward Chaz McCrommon back in the fold. The winner of the starting point job shouldn't have a problem piling up assists. Two other regulars return as well—Aaron Thomas, who can rebound and hit the 3, and pivot Bobby Davenport.

Coach: Mark Schmidt (22-35, 2 years).

Projected starters: G Maurice Carter, 6-0/Jr. (19.1 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 41.7 FG%, 38.0 3PT%); G Chris Gooden, 6-1/Jr. (JC transfer); C Bobby Davenport, 6-8/Sr. (4.0 rpg, 62.7 FG%); F Chaz McCrommon, 6-6/Sr. (16.4 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 49.0 FG%, 40.0 3PT%); F Aaron Thomas, 6-7/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 44.9 FG%, 37.6 3PT%, 82.1 FT%).

Last league title: 1992.

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Moon Township, Pa.

Home court: Sewall Center (3,056).

Website: www.rmu.edu

7. St. Francis (N.Y.)

Outlook: The Terriers return just two starters after losing their top three scorers. There is stability at the point, though, where Tory Cavalieri is a great distributor and solid shooter, but he must cut down on his giveaways. Joining him is Christian Brown, who had a solid debut and could become a strong inside-outside player, and John Quintana, who is good from outside.

Coach: Ron Ganulin (159-179, 12 years; 186-202 overall, 14 years).

Projected starters: G Tory Cavalieri, 6-0/Jr. (5.6 apg, 42.8 FG%, 38.6 3PT%, 86.3 FT%); G Christian Brown, 6-4/So. (45.5 FG%, 37.7 3PT%); G John Quintana, 6-1/So. (40.7 FG%, 45.7 3PT%, 81.6 FT%); F Eric Thompson, 6-8/Sr. (52.8 FG%, 38.5 3P%); F Devon Neckles, 6-7/Jr. (56.3 FG%).

Last league title: 2001.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Brooklyn Heights, N.Y.

Home court: Pope P.E. Center (1,250).

Website: www.stfranciscollege.edu/athletics.html

8. Mount St. Mary's

Outlook: Milan Brown, an assistant last year, takes over and hopes to build around a backcourt that features high-scoring wing Landy Thompson, who should be more deadly if his shot selection improves, and point man Chris Sumner, a good distributor and

defender whose scoring picked up last season.

Coach: Milan Brown (1st year).

Projected starters: G Landy Thompson, 6-1/So. (15.6 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 35.6 3PT%); G Chris Sumner, 6-1/So. (4.5 apg); C Nick Dodson, 6-10/Sr. (65.2 FG%); F Charles Cook, 6-5/So.; F Kiel Butler, 6-7/So. (41.8 FG%, 35.1 3P%).

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Emmitsville, Md.

Home court: Knott Arena (3,110).

Website: www.mountathletics.com

9. Fairleigh-Dickinson

Outlook: Last season's go-go style will be replaced by a more deliberate approach that should help improve the minus-7.0 rebounding margin. Senior point Marcus Whitaker is a good decision-maker and solid outside shooter, and forward Gordon Klaiber is an inside-outside type who should average at least 10 points.

Coach: Tom Green (321-255, 20 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Marcus Whitaker, 5-9/Sr. (4.9 apg); G Chad Timberlake, 6-4/So. (51.9 FG%); G Mensah Peterson, 6-2/Sr. (78.4 FT%); C Andrea Crosariol, 6-10/Fr.; F Gordon Klaiber, 6-8/So. (4.0 rpg, 46.9 FG%, 42.6 3PT%, 71.4 FT%).

Last league title: 1991 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Teaneck, N.J.

Home court: Roghtman Center (5,000).

Website: www.fduknight.com

10. Sacred Heart

Outlook: The return of four starters and the expected good health of two big men give the Pioneers a good foundation for growth and an improvement on last year's eight wins. The two big guys, sophomore Kibwe Trim and junior Mading Mading, played in a combined five games last season.

Coach: Dave Bike (400-333, 25 years).

Projected starters: G Maurice Bailey, 6-0/Sr. (16.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 41.1 FG%, 76.8 FT%); G Omar Wellington, 5-10/Sr. (12.0 ppg, 4.6 apg, 41.3 FG%, 37.4 3PT%, 76.8 FT%); G James Samuels, 6-4/Jr. (4.0 rpg, 42.8 FG%); C Zach Spivey, 6-9/Sr. (4.6 rpg, 49.7 FG%, 41.2 3PT%); F Kibwe Trim, 6-10/So. (75.0 FT%).

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Fairfield, Conn.

Home court: Pitt Center (2,100).

Website: www.sacredheartpioneers.com

11. Long Island

Outlook: The Blackbirds are in full rebuild because of the departure of four rotation regulars, including Antawn Dobie (19.1 ppg, 7.4 apg), and the arrival of seven newcomers. Big man Raymond Edwards returns as the leading scorer and is a solid pivot who should be flanked by forwards Derek Bell and Brandon Thomas. Freshman James Williams must take over at the point.

Coach: Jim Ferry (9-19, 1 year).

Projected starters: G James Williams, 5-11/Fr.; G Morgan Williams, 6-2/So.; C Raymond Edwards, 6-7/Sr. (10.0 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 53.5 FG%); F Derek Bell, 6-7/Jr. (7.6 rpg, 57.1 FG%); F Brandon Thomas, 6-6/So. (41.4 FG%).

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Brooklyn, N.Y.

Home court: Schwartz Athletic Center (1,000).

Website: www.liu.edu

MEAC

Rank 28

By Luciana Chavez, Raleigh News Observer

Preseason all-conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Terrence Woods, Florida A&M	6-3	185	Sr.
G	Tee Trotter, Md.-Eastern Shore	5-11	180	Sr.
G	Thurman Zimmerman, S.C. State	6-5	230	Jr.
F	Aaron Matthews, Delaware St.	6-6	235	Sr.
F	Devin Green, Hampton	6-7	205	Jr.

Player of the year

Thurman Zimmerman

Zimmerman was the MEAC Rookie of the Year and a first-team All-MEAC pick last season after shooting 50.6 percent from the field and averaging 16.0 points and 7.6 rebounds. But Zimmerman also shows heart behind the stats. For example, S.C. State had led the conference in turnovers last season and struggled against pressure. But during the MEAC tournament, it was Zimmerman who brought the ball up against Hampton's press. He scored 19 of his 21 points in the second half in the Bulldogs' upset of the two-time defending champs.

Newcomer of the Year

Tony Tate, G, Florida A&M

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
S.C. State*	15	3	20	10
Hampton	13	5	19	11
Delaware	13	5	15	12
Florida A&M	11	7	17	12
Coppin State	11	7	11	17
Norfolk State	10	8	14	15
Howard	9	9	13	17
Morgan State	6	12	7	22
Bethune-Cookman	5	13	8	22
Md.-Eastern Shore	5	13	5	23
North Carolina A&T	1	17	1	26

*Lost to Oklahoma in NCAA East first round.

1. South Carolina State*

Outlook: The Bulldogs lost two starters and a coach and still look like the team to beat. First-year coach Ben Betts inherits MEAC rookie of the year Thurman Zimmerman and plenty of height, which should keep State strong on the boards. Zimmerman, a versatile guard, will get help inside from forward Dakin Braddick, who can play all spots but the point. Returning starters Demeco Heath and Clary Judge likely will platoon at point guard. State pulled in one of the league's top recruits in guard Shawn Wiggins. **Coach:** Ben Betts (1st year).

Projected starters: G Thurman Zimmerman, 6-5/Jr. (16.0 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 50.6 FG%, 78.2 FT%); G Demeco Heath, 6-2/Jr. (47.9 FG%, 40.6 3PT%); G Clary Judge, 6-0/Jr.; C/F Cory Seels, 6-8/Jr. (46.2 FG%); C/F Dakin Braddick, 6-11/Fr.

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Orangeburg, S.C.

Home court: Smith-Hammond Memorial Center (3,200).

Website: www.scsusports.com

2. Delaware State

Outlook: The team won 13 games with a balanced attack using coach Greg Jackson's slow-paced offense last season. The key to building on that will be the play of all-conference point guard Miles Davis and forward Aaron Matthews, who play bigger than their size. Shooting guard is the biggest question mark. Senior Prince Parker and junior college transfer Eric Batemen will compete for the position. **Coach:** Greg Jackson (44-40, 3 years; 210-117 overall, 12 years).

Projected starters: G Miles Davis, 5-9/Sr. (3.1 apg, 37.8 3PT%, 80.2 FT%); G Carlos Hawkins, 6-6/Jr. (53.8 FG%, 84.0 FT%); F Terrance Hunter, 6-8/So. (45.8 FG%, 36.0 3PT%); F Aaron Matthews, 6-6/Sr. (6.2 rpg, 50.3 FG%); G Prince Parker, 6-1/Sr.

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Dover, Del.

Home court: Memorial Hall (3,000).

Website: www.dsc.edu/athletics

3. Florida A&M

Outlook: The Rattlers lost just one starter and return Terrence Woods, their leading scorer, to a team that won't be taken lightly by any opponent in the MEAC. Woods nailed 139 3s last season, which led Division I and was the third-most in D-I history. Point guard Moses White returns, but he'll get heavy competition from sophomore transfer Tony Tate. FAMU needs something big from forward O.J. Sumter and transfer guard Michael Harper to succeed.

Coach: Mike Gillespie (26-31, 2 years; 52-59 overall, 4 years).

Projected starters: G Terrence Woods, 6-3/Sr. (20.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 44.4 FG%, 45.7 3PT%, 88.5 FT%); G Moses White, 6-0/Sr. (3.5 apg); G Demarcus Wilkins, 6-0/Sr. (40.1 FG%, 42.1 3PT%); F Brian Zamore, 6-8/Jr.; F O.J. Sumter, 6-7/Sr. (4.8 rpg, 55.1 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Tallahassee, Fla.

Home court: Gaither Gymnasium (3,350).

Website: www.famusports.com

4. Hampton

Outlook: Hampton could have been a stronger title contender this season if Devin Green's situation was stable. He was released from his scholarship in July but was set to return to the team this fall. David Johnson is a returning starter, and Frank Russell started three times last season. Junior college transfer Jared Woodley will play the point. Sophomore shooting guard Jeff Granger is the team's leading returning scorer. Freshman Junior Pehoua should play the wing, though Brandon Streeter will compete for time.

Coach: Bobby Collins (19-11, 1 year).

Projected starters: G Jeff Granger, 6-3/So. (36.8 3PT%); G Jared Woodley, 6-1/Jr. (JC transfer); G Junior Pehoua, 6-5/Fr.; F/C Frank Russell, 6-11/So. (53.3 FG%); F David Johnson, 6-7/Sr. (59.6 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Hampton, Va.

Home court: Convocation Center (7,200).

Website: www.hampton.edu/athletics

5. Coppin State

Outlook: The team has another tough hill to climb after losing leading scorer Larry Tucker and potential all-conference performer Deke Thompson, who

transferred. The load falls on senior guard Jimmy Boykin, who led the team in 3-point shooting last season and ranked second in rebounding. Look for two swingmen to make the biggest impact among the team's newcomers: Kelvin Green, an athletic, big guard/forward who missed last season because of a broken toe, and Nicholas King, who sat out and worked on academics.

Coach: Ron Mitchell (286-214, 17 years; 513-259 overall, 25 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Darryl Jones, 6-2/Jr. (35.7 3PT%); G Raheem Scott, 6-2/So. (4.7 rpg, 3.4 apg); G Jimmy Boykin, 6-7/Sr. (14.4 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 47.7 FG%, 44.2 3PT%, 79.2 FT%); F/G Kelvin Green, 6-5/Fr.; F/C Henry Colter, 6-11/Jr. (48.4 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Baltimore.

Home court: Coppin Center (1,720).

Website: www.coppin.edu

6. Norfolk State

Outlook: Coach Dwight Freeman is looking at a clean slate after he lost two players to graduation and three to transfers. The team will be thin inside, though leading rebounders Ryan Grier, Chakowby Hicks and Karandick Ogunnde are back. Hicks will be the focal point of the fast-paced offense and pressure defense.

Coach: Dwight Freeman (14-15, 1 year; 60-80 overall, 6 years).

Projected starters: G Nicholas Byrd, 6-1/Sr. (36.8 3PT%); G Chakowby Hicks, 6-3/Jr. (11.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 43.0 FG%, 39.0 3PT%); G Derrick Smith, 6-5/Sr. (10.9 ppg, 40.2 FG%); C Karandick Ogunnde, 6-7/So. (4.3 rpg, 42.7 FG%); F Ryan Grier, 6-4/So. (10.4 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 45.6 FG%, 76.5 FT%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Norfolk, Va.

Home court: Echols Hall (7,700).

Website: www.nsu.edu/athletics

7. Howard

Outlook: The team lost a scoring machine in MEAC Player of the Year Ron Williamson, so forwards Seye Aluko, the team's leading rebounder and scorer, and James Wilkinson are on the hot seat. Sophomore point Louis Ford will get help from senior Hekima Jackson or freshmen Will Gant and Darryl Mitchell. Bilal Russell, who did not play last season while dealing with heart problems, is a dangerous shooter and must pitch in offensively.

Coach: Frankie Allen (41-48, 3 years; 212-249 overall, 22 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Louis Ford, 5-6/So. (82.0 FT%); G Hekima Jackson, 6-2/Sr.; F Bilal Russell, 6-5/So.; F/C James Wilkinson, 6-9/Jr. (4.5 rpg, 53.4 FG%); F Seye Aluko, 6-6/Sr. (7.0 rpg, 45.9 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1992.

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Washington, D.C.

Home court: Burr Gymnasium (2,700).

Website: www.bisonmania.com

8. Morgan State

Outlook: Nearly all of the top scorers, led by shooting guard Sam Brand, and rebounders, led by forward Aaron Andrews, return. Without much depth, talent will be stretched thin. The team needs a breakout year from sophomore forward Ron Timus, its best athlete, and for senior Reggie Winkfield to contribute inside after sitting out last season as a medical redshirt.

Coach: Butch Beard (10-47, 2 years; 51-113 overall, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Sam Brand, 6-3/Sr. (12.4 ppg, 40.1 FG%, 39.2 3PT%); G Cedric Barrow, 6-0/Sr. (3.5 apg); F Aaron Andrews, 6-5/Sr. (7.3 rpg, 57.4 FG%); F Ron Timus, 6-4/So. (4.0 rpg); F Reggie Winkfield, 6-5/Sr. (medical redshirt).
Last regular-season title: 1976.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Baltimore.

Home court: Hill Field House (4,500).

Website: www.morgan.edu/athletics

9. Bethune-Cookman

Outlook: Coach Cliff Reed is attempting a quick fix on offense with four junior college transfers, but he still could start an experienced group of two juniors and two seniors. The Wildcats will be strongest in the frontcourt with seniors Pape Ba and Diondre Lamond and sophomore Michael Williams. Of the newcomers, point guard Aundrea Grayson fits the recruiting class' personality best. He averaged 21 points, 3.8 rebounds and 3.8 assists during his junior college career.

Coach: Cliff Reed (14-26, 2 years).

Projected starters: G O'Neal Carter, 6-0/Jr. (76.5 FT%); G Markey Picard, 6-0/Jr.; C Pape Ba, 6-8/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 50.0 FG%); F/C Michael Williams, 6-7/So. (6.6 rpg, 47.4 FG%); F Diondre Lamond, 6-6/Sr. (10.0 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 53.7 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Daytona Beach, Fla.

Home court: Moore Gymnasium (3,000).

Website: www.cookman.edu/athletics

10. Maryland-Eastern Shore

Outlook: This team has elements in place to become upwardly mobile within the conference. It returns four starters, including all-conference candidate Tee Trotter, but the team could start two others: forward DeWitt Scott, one of the top prep stars out of Illinois, and sophomore center Tim Parham, who can give the Hawks a much-needed tough, inside threat.

Coach: Thomas Trotter (28-57, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Tee Trotter, 5-11/Sr. (20.5 ppg, 3.2 apg, 40.5 FG%, 39.0 3PT%, 82.1 FT%); G Aaron Wellington, 5-11/So. (13.5 ppg, 42.1 FG%, 39.7 3PT%, 90.2 FT%); C Tim Parham, 6-9/So.; F Javes Wiggins, 6-7/Sr. (5.1 rpg); F DeWitt Scott, 6-6/Fr.

Last regular-season title: 1974.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Princess Anne, Md.

Home court: Hytche Athletic Center (5,500).

Website: www.umes.edu/athletics

11. North Carolina A&T

Outlook: There are no quick fixes for the Aggies, who have averaged just nine wins the last five seasons. Jerry Eaves, a former NBA assistant, will concentrate on recruiting and developing the right attitude. But Eaves didn't take over until April 29. Sophomore Tyrone Green will be at the head of a rebuilding effort that includes nine new players.

Coach: Jerry Eaves (1st year).

Projected starters: G Tyrone Green, 5-11/So. (13.2 ppg); G Steven Koger, 6-3/So. (12.3 ppg, 40.8 FG%); G William Howard, 6-5/So. (4.5 rpg, 60.0 FG%); C Abraham Traore, 6-10/Sr.; F Chris Ferguson, 6-7/Sr. (8.1 rpg).

Last regular-season title: 1988.

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Greensboro, N.C.

Home court: Corbett Center. (3,200).

Website: www.ncat.edu/~athletics

Southland

Rank 29

By Paul Letlow, The News-Star (Monroe, La.)

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Amir Abdur-Rahim, SE Louisiana	6-3	195	Sr.
G	Terry Conerway, Texas State	6-3	215	Sr.
C	Eddy Fobbs, Sam Houston St.	6-11	232	Sr.
C	Roy Johnson, Texas-Arlington	6-9	235	Sr.
F	LeRoy Hurd, Texas-San Antonio	6-8	215	Sr.

Player of the year

LeRoy Hurd

A former Big East freshman of the year, Hurd led the Southland in scoring with 17.6 ppg last season and was named newcomer of the year and second-team all-conference. Hurd's absence for five games midway through the conference schedule had a lot to do with Texas-San Antonio's disappointing 7-13 league record and ninth-place flop. He returned to lead the Roadrunners in scoring and rebounding in four of their last five games.

Newcomer of the year

Daryl Mason, G/F, Louisiana-Monroe

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Sam Houston State*	17	3	23	6
Stephen F. Austin	16	4	21	8
Texas-Arlington	13	7	16	13
Texas State	11	9	17	12
McNeese State	10	10	15	14
Lamar	10	10	13	14
Louisiana-Monroe	10	10	12	16
SE Louisiana	9	11	11	16
Texas-San Antonio	7	13	10	17
Northwestern State	6	14	6	21
Nicholls State	1	19	3	25

*Lost to Florida in NCAA South first round.

1. Stephen F. Austin*

Outlook: The Lumberjacks are on the verge of winning their first conference title after reaching the championship game last season. Returning starters include B.J. Banks, a defensive whiz who had 61 steals, and Jason Gast. Second-leading scorer Antonio Burks provides a potent outside scoring threat. The team also expects more from sophomore point guard Marcus Clark, who led the team in assists. Although the team will be weak inside, Taylor Moore should step in for former All-SLC player Percy Green.

Coach: Danny Kaspar (43-39, 3 years).

Projected starters: G B.J. Banks, 6-2/Sr. (47.2 FG%, 38.8 3PT%); G Marcus Clark, 5-10/So. (3.4 apg, 41.2 FG%, 80.5 FT%); C Taylor Moore, 6-8/Jr. (52.6 FG%); F Antonio Burks, 6-5/Sr. (49.0 FG%, 42.9 3PT%); F Hank Rivers, 6-8/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1987.

Site: Nacogdoches, Texas.

Home court: Johnson Coliseum (7,200).

Website: www.sfajacks.com

2. Louisiana-Monroe

Outlook: The Indians lost Kirby Lemons, their leading scorer and rebounder, but they should gain continuity without him. A trio of returning players—John Andrews, Tank Thompson and Wayne Bransom—should provide more production without Lemons, who was more inclined to improvise than stick with a set play. Point guard is the key position. The Indians have experience in senior Brandon Horn and junior Aaron Branch. Look for newcomer Daryl Mason, a junior college addition who initially signed with Texas A&M, to provide a nice boost on the wing.

Coach: Mike Vining (381-265, 22 years; 0-7 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Brandon Horn, 6-1/Sr.; G John Andrews, 6-4/Sr.; Mark Keith, G, 6-4/Sr. (42.6 FG%); C Tank Thompson, 6-11/Sr. (4.8 rpg, 53.2 FG%); F Wayne Bransom, 6-8/Sr. (5.4 rpg, 53.5 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1997 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Monroe, La.

Home court: Fant-Ewing Coliseum (8,000).

Website: ulmathletics.com

3. Northwestern State

Outlook: Northwestern State was the youngest team in the nation last season. With five sophomore starters this season, it isn't exactly grizzled. But the Demons have a collection of tall, athletic players who should flourish. Jermaine Wallace will try to build on a breakout freshman campaign. He will have help from a balanced lineup that includes three players who averaged double figures in scoring, including Byron Allen and Clifton Lee.

Coach: Marty McConathy (55-65, 4 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Jermaine Wallace, 6-3/So. (11.1 ppg, 42.3 FG%); G Tyrone Mitchell, 6-1/So.; C Byron Allen, 6-7/So. (10.2 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 45.2 FG%); F Jermaine Spencer, 6-7/So. (4.7 rpg, 41.1 FG%); F Clifton Lee, 6-7/So. (10.4 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 41.8 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Natchitoches, La.

Home court: Prather Coliseum (4,300).

Website: www.nsudemons.com

4. Texas State

Outlook: The school changed its name from Southwest Texas, but the Bobcats still have their top player, All-SLC guard Terry Conerway. He led them in scoring with 15.4 points last season and should improve on that. Roosevelt Brown, a transfer from Texas, was solid as a junior and should play a bigger role this season. Texas State thrives on perimeter shooting and should be more active defensively.

Projected starters: G Terry Conerway, 6-3/Sr. (15.4 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 48.9 FG%, 40.5 3PT%); G Roosevelt Brown, 6-3/Sr. (35.7 3PT%); G Brad Brinkens, 6-4/Jr. (46.7 FG%); C Nick Goellner, 6-10/So. (47.4 FG%); F Nick Ponder, 6-5/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: San Marcos, Texas.

Home court: Strahan Coliseum (7,200).

Website: www.txstatebobcats.com

5. Texas-Arlington

Outlook: A third-place finish last season was their best since 1993, and the Mavericks shouldn't

slide much. UTA has one of the more talented teams in the league with its returning senior trio of Keith Howell, Roy Johnson and Derrick Obasohan. The departure of rugged power forward Mack Callier, a rebounding force, leaves the largest hole in the lineup.

Coach: Eddie McCarter (135-168, 11 years).

Projected starters: G Keith Howell, 6-1/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 47.9 FG%, 79.7 FT%); G Donny Beacham 6-5/Sr. (46.9 FG%); C Roy Johnson, 6-9/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 49.8 FG%, 78.3 FT%); F Derrick Obasohan, 6-7/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 40.9 FG%); F Steven Thomas, 6-5/So. (4.7 rpg, 48.6 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Arlington, Texas.

Home court: Texas Hall (4,200).

Website: www.utamavs.com

6. Texas-San Antonio

Outlook: Despite the presence of the league's most talented player in forward LeRoy Hurd, UTSA finished ninth in the league last season. Part of the slide coincided with Hurd's missing five games because of injury. Hurd and junior guard David President are the returning starters, and count on Colorado transfer Justin Harbert eventually sliding in at the point after sitting last season.

Coach: Tim Carter (115-108, 8 years; 126-124 overall, 9 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G David President, 6-1/Jr. (3.3 apg); G Sammie Cole, 6-2/Sr. (37.3 3P%, 81.6 FT%); C Anthony Fuqua, 6-11/Jr. (JC transfer); F LeRoy Hurd, 6-8/Sr. (17.6 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 49.8 FG%, 37.8 3P%, 75.4 FT%); F Robert Ivy, 6-4/Sr.

Last regular-season title: 1992.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: San Antonio.

Home court: Convocation Center (5,100).

Website: www.goutsa.com

7. Sam Houston State

Outlook: After failing to make the SLC tournament in 2001-02, Sam Houston's senior-laden lineup rebounded to win the regular-season and tournament titles and its first NCAA Tournament berth.

Coach Bob Marlin's reward is a rebuilding job after losing five starters, although senior center Eddy Fobbs returns to give the team an inside presence.

Coach: Bob Marlin (85-57, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Mario Kinsey, 6-2/Jr. (41.0 FG%); G Marcus Ebow, 6-2/So. (80.0 FT%); G Jason Stephenson, 6-2/Sr. (42.5 FG%, 37.1 3PT%); C Eddy Fobbs, 6-11/Sr. (5.5 rpg, 2.7 bpg, 56.5 FG%); F Rodrick Winters, 6-5/Sr. (65.4 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Huntsville, Texas.

Home court: Johnson Coliseum (6,100).

Website: www.shsu.edu/~ath_www

8. McNeese State

Outlook: If the program keeps growing like sophomore center Marcus Watts, McNeese could enjoy a solid season. Watts is now 6-9—3 inches taller than when he signed—and he averaged 7.0 rebounds over the last seven games last season.

Watts will get help from senior point guard Eldridge Lewis, who is one of the best passers in the SLC.

Coach: Tic Price (36-23, 2 years; 129-77, 7 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Eldridge Lewis, 5-10/Sr. (4.3 apg, 36.5 3PT%); G Edward Garriet, 6-0/Sr.

(46.1 FG%, 45.0 3PT%); C Marcus Watts, 6-9/So. (50.0 FG%); F Monte Farmer, 6-9/Sr. (4.2 rpg, 52.5 FG%); F Jerick Oliver, 6-7/Sr. (42.6 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Lake Charles, La.

Home court: Burton Coliseum (8,000).

Website: www.mcneese.edu/sports

9. Lamar

Outlook: Athletics director Billy Tubbs added head basketball coach to his title after Mike Deane departed. Tubbs coached at Lamar from 1976-80 before stints at Oklahoma and TCU. As the Cardinals convert to the uptempo Billy Ball style, Jonathan Burnett should benefit; he's quick and shoots well. Lamar lost four starters, so Tubbs must retool. Senior Terrell Petteway redshirted last year, giving this season's club more experience.

Coach: Billy Tubbs (1st year in second stint; 595-297 overall, 28 years; 18-12 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Jonathan Burnett, 6-0/So. (10.1 ppg, 76.7 FT%); G Gil Goodrich, 5-10/Jr. (JC transfer); G Raymond Anthony, 5-10/Jr. (JC transfer); C Brian Rowan, 6-10/Jr.; F Terrell Petteway, 6-7/Sr.

Last regular-season title: 1984.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Beaumont, Texas.

Home court: Montagne Center (10,080).

Website: dept.lamar.edu/athletics

10. Southeastern Louisiana

Outlook: The Lions annually spend their offseason prowling for big men, and the latest addition is junior college center Nate Lofton. Returners Terry West and Jonathan Walker also should help in the paint, especially with the loss of Gary Solomon, who left the team in the offseason. Leading the backcourt is senior Amir Abdur-Rahim, brother of NBA star Shareef Abdur-Rahim. He led the Lions in scoring the last two seasons.

Coach: Billy Kennedy (36-74, 4 years; 60-108 overall, 6 years).

Projected starters: G Amir Abdur-Rahim, 6-3/Sr. (15.4 ppg); G Michael Gardener, 5-10/Sr. (3.3 apg); C Nate Lofton, 6-9/Jr. (JC transfer); F Jonathan Walker, 6-8/So. (4.1 rpg, 50.0 FG%); F Terry West, 6-6/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 44.3 FG%).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Hammond, La.

Home court: University Center (7,500).

Website: www.lionsports.com

11. Nicholls State

Outlook: Three players return—Markeith Brown, Dominique Geason and Eric James. Two newcomers to count on are point guard Willie Depron, a junior college transfer, and forward Stefan Blaszczyński, a member of the Australian 18-and-under national team. Expect coach Ricky Blanton's team to feature taut defense and precision offense.

Coach: Ricky Blanton (3-25, 1 year).

Projected starters: G Willie Depron, 6-1/Jr. (JC transfer); G Markeith Brown, 6-0/Sr.; F Stefan Blaszczyński, 6-6/Fr.; F Dominique Geason, 6-5/Jr. (40.0 FG%); F Eric James, 6-4/Jr.

Last regular-season title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Thibodaux, La.

Home court: Stopher Gym (3,500).

Website: www.colonelsports.com

Big South

Rank 30

By Michael Bradley, free-lance writer

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Whit Holcomb-Faye, Radford	6-1	170	So.
G/F	Gabe Martin, Liberty	6-4	200	Sr.
F	Tyrone Walker, Winthrop	6-6	226	Sr.
F	Danny Gathings, High Point	6-6	205	So.
F	Radee Skipworth, VMI	6-6	210	Sr.

Player of the year

Tyrone Walker

Coach Gregg Marshall will lean on Walker to help fill the leadership and production void left by Pierre Wooten. Walker is an inside-outside threat who led the league in rebounding and shot 36.2 percent from 3-point range. Walker also blocked 30 shots and converted 81.6 percent of his free throws. If that kind of versatility doesn't add up to a big year, check the batteries in your calculator. Walker makes Winthrop a favorite to win the Big South title.

Newcomer of the year

Alex Spotts, F, Winthrop

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Winthrop	11	3	20	10
Charleston Southern	8	6	14	14
Liberty	8	6	14	15
Elon	8	6	12	15
UNC Asheville*	7	7	14	16
Radford	6	8	10	20
Coastal Carolina	5	9	13	15
High Point	3	11	7	20
Birmingham-Southern	0	0	19	9

*Lost to Texas in NCAA South first round.

1. Winthrop*

Outlook: Coach Gregg Marshall has developed a reputation for developing guards during his five years at Winthrop. That's a good thing because the only glaring hole on the roster is at point guard after the departure of first-team All-Big South performer Pierre Wooten. Marshall must decide whether 6-4 freshman Torrell Martin, the Class AAAA player of the year in South Carolina, or 6-1 sophomore Ivan Jenkins can handle the job. There are no questions up front, other than how to find minutes for all the talent. Senior forwards Tyrone Walker, a first-team all-league choice last season, and Marcus Cooke are stalwarts. Junior center Josh Grant already has tied the school record for blocked shots. Plus, Rice transfer Alex Spotts and Craig Bradshaw are expected to contribute.

Coach: Gregg Marshall (99-52, 5 years; 0-4 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Ivan Jenkins, 6-0/Jr. (36.7 3PT%, 86.8 FT%); G Torrell Martin, 6-4/Fr.; F Tyrone Walker, 6-6/Sr. (13.2 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 43.4 FG%, 36.2 3PT%, 81.6 FT%); F Billy Houston, 6-8/So. (4.3 rpg,

58.6 FG%); F Marcus Cooke, 6-4/Sr. (5.5 rpg, 41.2 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Rock Hill, S.C.

Home court: Winthrop Coliseum (6,100).

Website: www.winthropeagles.com

2. Liberty

Outlook: With four starters returning and a good crop of newcomers, the Flames won't need to shuttle players in and out every couple of minutes like they did with a six-man lineup last season. Not that Liberty wants to keep players such as seniors Gabe Martin and Ryan Mantlo on the bench. Both were double-figure scorers last season and should join freshman Larry Blair, a 6-1 combo guard, in a solid three-pronged offensive attack. Blair's emergence could mean trouble for sophomore Jeremy Monceaux, who struggled at the point in conference play. Inside, senior Jason Sarchet is a rugged rebounder who will be helped by the addition of junior college transfers Emmanuel Segon and Leo Lightbourne. Their presence should help ease the loss of power forward Vincent Okotie.

Coach: Randy Dunton (25-32, 2 years; 57-56 overall, 4 years).

Projected starters: G Ryan Mantlo, 6-1/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 2.0 spg); G Jeremy Monceaux, 6-0/Sr. (84.7 FT%); C Jason Sarchet, 6-8/Sr. (6.8 rpg, 44.6 FG%, 78.0 FT%); F/G Gabe Martin, 6-4/Sr. (15.1 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 42.4 FG%, 85.3 FT%); F Leo Lightbourne, 6-8/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Lynchburg, Va.

Home court: Vines Center (9,000).

Website: www.liberty.edu/athletics

3. Coastal Carolina

Outlook: If Pete Strickland can mold a team out of 10 players who have been full-time starters at some point over the last couple of seasons, the Chanticleers will be title threats. Add in freshman forward Adrian Gross and athletic wing Moses Sonko, and there is a lot of potential. The backcourt belongs to senior Brandon Newby, who is healed from his knee surgery last season, and E.J. Gallup, who has good range. Figure junior shooter Alvin Green will be the point guard, although he played just six games last season because of a foot injury. Up front, senior Mihai Raducanu and Anthony Susnjara will bang, and junior Clint Nagel provides good defense. The Chanticleers will score, but they must rebound. And get along.

Coach: Pete Strickland (46-93, 5 years).

Projected starters: G E.J. Gallup, 6-4/Sr. (35.5 3PT%, 75.8 FT%); G Alvin Green, 5-9/Jr. (40.0 FG%, 41.2 3PT%); G Brandon Newby, 6-2/Sr.; C Mihai Raducanu, 6-9/Sr. (44.3 FG%); F Adrian Gross, 6-7/Fr.

Last regular-season title: 1993.

Last NCAA appearance: 1993.

Site: Conway, S.C.

Home court: Kimbel Arena (1,037).

Website: www.coastal.edu/athletics

4. Birmingham-Southern

Outlook: The Panthers' journey to full-fledged Division I status has two years to go, but they will play a full Big South schedule and are eligible for an at-large NCAA Tournament bid—even though they must wait until 2005-06 to play in the conference tournament. Two backcourt starters return for the Panthers, who went 11-5 against Big South opponents last season. Senior point guard Derrick

Williams must cut down on turnovers, and Jakob Sigurdarson is a dangerous 3-point threat from the wing. Expect senior Grant Davis to start at forward alongside Sredrick Powe or Rostislav Vergun, a pair of junior college imports. Junior Shema Mbyirukira gives the Panthers a shot-blocking presence inside, and 6-5 freshman Arnold Gore is a skilled wing player.

Coach: Duane Reboul (347-94, 14 years).

Projected starters: G Jakob Sigurdarson, 6-4/Jr. (12.3 ppg, 43.4 FG%, 40.5 3PT%, 83.3 FT%); G Derrick Williams, 5-9/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 3.4 apg, 36.9 3PT%, 87.4 FT%); C Shema Mbyirukira, 6-11/Jr. (2.0 bpg, 53.1 FG%); F Grant Davis, 6-8/Sr. (4.4 rpg, 44.4 FG%); F Sredrick Powe, 6-7/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Birmingham, Ala.

Home court: Bill Battle Coliseum (2,000).

Website: www.bsports.net

5. UNC Asheville

Outlook: After winning the play-in game last season for the Big South's first NCAA Tournament victory, the Bulldogs would be happy to finish in the top half of the conference after losing three starters, including first-team all-league guard Ben McGonagil. Returning frontcourt players Bryan McCullough and Joseph Barber are steady, and Asheville needs big contributions from sophomore Chad Mohn, a great athlete, and classmate Omar Collington. Among the newcomers, only point man K.J. Garland is expected to make a splash.

Coach: Eddie Biedenbach (102-101, 7 years; 131-152 overall, 10 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Omar Collington, 6-1/Sr. (82.4 FT%); G K.J. Garland, 6-1/Fr.; C Joseph Barber, 6-9/Jr. (4.9 rpg, 46.5 FG%, 43.2 3PT%); F Bryan McCullough, 6-5/Jr. (10.1 ppg, 41.1 FG%, 40.5 3PT%, 77.4 FT%); F Chad Mohn, 6-9/Sr. (41.3 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2002 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Asheville, N.C.

Home court: Charlie Justice Center (1,100).

Website: www.unca.edu/athletics

6. Radford

Outlook: The run to the conference tournament final last season erased the foul taste of the worst start in school history and provided optimism for this season. But the Highlanders remain young and must find ways to improve their scoring, particularly after the loss of point man Raymond Arrington. Expect guard Whit Holcomb-Faye, the Big South Freshman of the Year last season, to produce big numbers, particularly if his shooting eye improves. But he needs help. That could come from junior college transfer Brandon Jeffers, who comes to Radford with great credentials, and junior wing Olumuyiwa Popoola. Senior Aaron Gill is a solid rebounder, and sophomore Andre Bynum showed potential down the stretch at the point.

Coach: Byron Samuels (10-20, 1 year; 27-56 overall, 3 years).

Projected starters: G Whit Holcomb-Faye, 6-1/Sr. (14.3 ppg, 4.1 apg); G Olumuyiwa Popoola, 6-3/Jr. (35.4 FG%, 80.8 FT%); G Andre Bynum, 6-2/Sr.; F Aaron Gill, 6-6/Sr. (7.4 rpg, 46.7 FG%); F Brandon Jeffers, 6-7/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Radford, Va.

Home court: Donald N. Dedmon Center (5,000).

Website: www.radford.edu/Athletics

7. Charleston Southern

Outlook: The Buccaneers enter the season still wondering why forward Kevin Warzynski transferred to Kent State. He's one of three starters who left CSU, leaving plenty of questions and work for the newcomers. Expect 6-0 freshman Donnell Covington and junior college transfer Kurtis Rice to take advantage of the opportunities. They'll join wing shooter Trent Drafts and steady point man Ed O'Neil as the core of the team. Junior Nathan Ball will be counted on for production inside. If he can't do it, it will be up to Yugoslavian junior college import Jovan Jegdic or a pair of freshmen, 6-8 Isaac Jones and 6-9 Carter Stiglbaier.

Coach: Jim Platt (36-50, 3 years; 92-109 overall, 7 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Ed O'Neil, 6-0/Sr. (5.0 apg, 2.6 spg, 41.8 FG%, 79.4 FT%); G Thomas Harrison, 6-1/Sr. (35.7 3PT%); C Nathan Ball, 6-9/Jr.; F Trent Drafts, 6-8/Jr. (43.9 FG%, 81.6 FT%); F Kurtis Rice, 6-5/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Charleston, S.C.

Home court: CSU Fieldhouse (1,500).

Website: www.csusports.com

8. High Point

Outlook: New coach Bart Lundy will rely on four returning starters to carry the Panthers during their transition year. Foremost among the returners are junior guard Joe Knight and junior forward Danny Gathings. In addition, 10 newcomers join the program. Among the most likely to make serious contributions are junior college transfers Javier Palacios and Zion White, a pair of wing scorers, and forwards Jorsua Chambers and Jerry Echenique. South Carolina transfer Issa Konare will provide help at the defensive end.

Coach: Bart Lundy (1st year).

Projected starters: G Jerry Echenique, 6-7/Jr. (JC transfer); G Javier Palacios, 6-3/Jr. (JC transfer); G Joe Knight, 6-2/Jr. (16.3 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 43.2 FG%, 40.3 3PT%, 76.1 FT%); F Danny Gathings, 6-6/Sr. (18.7 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 2.2 spg, 57.1 FG%); F Issa Konare, 6-7/Sr. (transfer/South Carolina).

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: High Point, N.C.

Home court: Millis Center (2,565).

Website: www.highpointpanthers.com

9. VMI

Outlook: The Keydets head to the Big South for the first time, hoping to avoid the tumult that characterized last season. The biggest upset came when leading scorer Jason Conley bolted campus for Missouri. His departure leaves senior Radee Skipworth as the Keydets' lone dependable scorer and puts pressure on a pair of newcomers, guard Fred Robinson and forward Matt Murrer. Senior point Richard Little was seventh in the nation in assists but struggles to score.

Coach: Bart Bellairs (101-151, 9 years).

Projected starters: G Richard Little, 5-10/Sr. (7.2 apg, 2.0 spg); G Ben Rand, 5-11/Sr. (3.1 apg); C Tim Allmond, 6-9/Jr. (4.6 rpg, 43.7 FG%); F Radee Skipworth, 6-6/Sr. (18.6 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 46.3 FG%); F Preston Beverly, 6-6/Jr. (4.0 rpg, 51.0 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1997 (Southern).

Last NCAA appearance: 1977.

Site: Lexington, Va.

Home court: Cameron Hall (5,800).

Website: www.vmikeydets.com

SWAC

Rank 31

By Mark Alexander, Clarion-Ledger
(Jackson, Miss.)

Preseason all-conference

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Brion Rush, Grambling State	6-1	170	So.
G	Malcolm Campbell, Ala. State	5-10	155	Sr.
F	Attarius Norwood, MVSU	6-8	230	Jr.
F	Paul Haynes, Grambling State	6-8	215	Sr.
F	Allen Lovett, Texas Southern	6-4	210	Sr.

Player of the year

Paul Haynes

The league player of the year two years ago, Haynes has the potential to have a standout senior season. He scored 29 points in a game against Wiley last season, topped only by the 31 points he had against Jackson State. The key to more success this season is consistency. In three games last season, he scored five points or fewer—and it wasn't for a lack of minutes. Balancing his stat sheet with more assists and rebounds would help, too.

Newcomer of the year

Larry Evans, G, Texas Southern

2002-03 standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Prairie View	14	4	17	12
Miss. Valley State	13	5	15	14
Texas Southern*	11	7	18	12
Alabama State	11	7	14	15
Alcorn State	10	8	14	19
Grambling State	9	9	12	18
Jackson State	9	9	10	18
Southern	5	13	9	20
Alabama A&M	4	14	8	19
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	4	14	4	24

*Lost to UNC Asheville in the NCAA opening round.

1. Texas Southern*

Outlook: A late-season slide cost Texas Southern a shot at the regular-season title. But the Tigers regrouped, won the SWAC tournament and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1995. With three starters returning, led by forward Allen Lovett, one of the better players in the league, coach Ronnie Courtney's team should be dancing again come March. Sean Walker is expected to take over for departed Marquel Timmons at point guard. Free throw shooting must improve, but there's not a more athletic front line in the conference. The Tigers should be deeper this season with the addition of guards Larry Evans and Damien Smith and big men Jason Arbet and Raymond Warren. Each is expected to play a lot. The team must overcome the loss of guard Ra'Kim Hollis (18.5 ppg, 5.9 rpg); he failed to meet academic requirements.

Coach: Ronnie Courtney (29-30, 2 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Sean Walker, 6-2/So. (40.2 FG%); F Allen Lovett 6-4/Sr. (17.1 ppg, 7.1 rpg); F Lionel Willis, 6-4/Jr. (10.9 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 55.4 FG%); F Jerome Bell, 6-6/Jr. (4.2 rpg, 49.5 FG%, 40.0 3PT%).

Last regular-season title: 1998.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2002.

Site: Houston.

Home court: Health & PE Arena (7,500).

Website: www.tsu.edu/athletics

2. Grambling State

Outlook: Some might consider it a reach, picking Grambling this high, especially considering it has finished in the bottom half of the league in each of Larry Wright's four seasons. But this should be the Tigers' year. Michigan transfer Maurice Searight joins an already potent offensive lineup. Searight, an excellent athlete, gives Wright the point guard he desperately missed last season. Forward Paul Haynes, the league player of the year two years ago, should have a big senior season. And Brion Rush, the SWAC Freshman of the Year last season, rates among the best in the league from the perimeter. More consistent play from Ron Ellis would be a plus. The high-scoring Tigers must improve on defense.

Coach: Larry Wright (30-85, 4 years).

Projected starters: G Maurice Searight, 6-2/Sr. (transfer/Michigan); G Brion Rush, 6-1/So. (17.0 ppg, 43.2 FG%, 77.5 FT%, 41.9 3PT%); F Terry Hill, 6-6/Jr. (JC transfer); F Paul Haynes, 6-8/Sr. (17.4 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 42.5 FG%); F Ron Ellis, 6-2/Jr.

Last regular-season title: 1989.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Grambling, La.

Home court: Memorial Gym (4,000).

Website: www.gram.edu/sports/grambling-sports.htm

3. Alcorn State

Outlook: Legendary coach Dave Whitney stepped down after 27 seasons and a school-record 510 victories. The Braves' new coach is Sammy West, Whitney's righthand man the last seven seasons. West, in his first season as a head coach, has promised a more uptempo offense and a more aggressive defense. Alcorn lost veterans Jason Cable and Tori Harris and talented center Lee Cook, who was kicked off the team last season. Despite the losses, the Braves still have one of the more experienced rosters in the SWAC, led by versatile forward Brian Jackson, who was slowed by a severe ankle injury last season. Guard DeAndre Jones should blossom in West's new-look offense, and forward Dion Callans is the ultimate energy guy.

Coach: Sammy West (1st year).

Projected starters: G Cory Jackson, 5-11/Jr. (43.0 FG%); G DeAndre Jones, 6-4/So.; C Rhau-Chavis Landfair, 6-10/Sr.; F Brian Jackson, 6-7/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 44.7 FG%, 37.0 3PT%); F Dion Callans, 6-8/Sr. (6.2 rpg, 45.3 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2002.

Last NCAA appearance: 2002.

Site: Lorman, Miss.

Home court: Davey L. Whitney Complex (7,000).

Website: www.alcorn.edu/athletics

4. Alabama State

Outlook: Alabama State won 11 conference games despite the loss of big man Alvin Pettway (ACL) midway through last season. The Hornets did it with stingy halfcourt defense, a trademark under coach Rob Spivery. Alabama State should be in the mix again, although second-leading scorer Keith Gamble is gone, and four other players were lost for academic reasons. Malcolm Campbell returns at point

guard. Although not one of the flashier players in the league, he gets the job done. Perhaps no team in the SWAC recruited better than Alabama State, whose class included high-flying forward Jermaine Smith, rated one of the top newcomers in the league. Akeem Claborn, a transfer from Morris Brown, will add muscle in the paint.

Coach: Rob Spivery (98-106, 7 years; 273-250 overall, 18 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Malcolm Campbell, 5-10/Sr.

(13.5 ppg, 5.0 apg, 46.9 FG%, 82.0 FT%, 38.9 3PT%); G Alexander Oliver, 6-0/Fr.; C Derrick Russell, 6-9/Jr. (47.1 FG%); F Xavier Oliver, 6-7/Sr. (5.6 rpg, 42.4 FG%); F Jermaine Smith, 6-6/Jr. (JC transfer).

Last regular-season title: 2001.

Last NCAA appearance: 2001.

Site: Montgomery, Ala.

Home court: Joe L. Reed Acadome (8,000).

Website: www.alasu.edu/sports

5. Mississippi Valley State

Outlook: Mississippi Valley appeared poised to win the regular-season title before it was upset by Grambling State in the final week. It might have been longtime Delta Devils coach Lafayette Stribling's best chance to win a title before retirement because team leaders Ashley Robinson and D'Jamel Robinson don't return. With Robinson gone, Valley's biggest question is at point guard. Two newcomers, William Clay and Jose Butler, will compete for that spot. A good nucleus returns, led by Attarius Norwood, who enjoyed a bit of a breakout season last year. Edward Mack and Solomon Forbes form one of the better guard-small forward combinations in the league. Banger Willie Neal mans the paint.

Coach: Lafayette Stribling (282-296, 20 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Edward Mack, 6-3/Sr.

(10.0 ppg, 41.4 FG%, 43.7 3PT%); G/F Solomon Forbes, 6-5/Jr.; C Willie Neal, 6-8/Sr. (9.1 rpg, 58.1 FG%); F Attarius Norwood, 6-8/Jr. (16.9 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 77.5 FT%, 42.0 3PT%); F Charles McGee, 6-7/Jr. (53.0 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Itta Bena, Miss.

Home court: Harrison HPER Complex (5,500).

Website: www.mvsu.edu

6. Jackson State

Outlook: Coach Andy Stoglin is out after 14 seasons; Tevester Anderson is in. Anderson, 66, comes to Jackson State after five seasons at Murray State, where he went 103-52 and led the Racers to two Ohio Valley Conference championships and two NCAA Tournament appearances. All-SWAC performers Tim Henderson and Cliff Walker are gone, but Ishmael Joyce, who should thrive in Anderson's uptempo offense, is back to pick up the scoring slack. Newcomers Antonio Parker, Michael Travis and 7-2 Shane King likely will play right away for the Tigers, who will go from being one of the smallest teams in the SWAC to one of the biggest.

Coach: Tevester Anderson (1st year; 103-52 overall, 5 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).

Projected starters: G Antonio Parker (JC transfer); G Ishmael Joyce, 6-3/Sr. (14.6 ppg); C Michael Travis (JC transfer); F Ernest Hassell, 6-6/Jr. (40.9 FG%); F Kelly Ross, 6-9/Sr. (40.0 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 1996 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Jackson, Miss.

Home court: Athletics and Assembly Center (8,000).

Website: tigersports.jsu.edu

7. Southern

Outlook: Southern rehired aging Ben Jobe a couple of years ago in hopes of reviving its struggling program. Didn't work. Michael Grant, who was 126-94 in seven seasons at NAIA Central State, steps in. Grant is the brother of former Michigan standout Gary Grant. Unfortunately for Michael Grant, there's no one on Southern's roster who can play as well as his brother did. Instead, he inherits a team that won a combined 11 conference games the past two seasons. The good news is Southern has some of the best young talent in the league, including Jerrid Campbell and Peter Cipriano. Nicholas Eglund, freshman of the year in the league two years ago, returns after missing most of last season because of a knee injury.

Coach: Michael Grant (1st year).

Projected starters: G Brandon Wardlow, 6-0/Jr. (JC transfer); G Trayvean Scott, 6-0/Jr. (4.9 apg); C Jerrid Campbell, 6-8/Jr. (10.8 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 48.4 FG%); F Peter Cipriano, 6-9/Jr. (10.3 ppg, 8.9 rpg, 55.0 FG%); F Deon Saunders 6-7/So. (transfer/Hartford).

Last regular-season title: 1993.

Last NCAA appearance: 1993.

Site: Baton Rouge, La.

Home court: F.G. Clark Activity Center (7,500).

Website: www.subr.edu/athletics

8. Prairie View

Outlook: Jerry Francis guided the Panthers to the regular-season title in his first year. After being picked near the bottom of the league in the preseason, Prairie View posted more wins than the previous

two seasons combined. Francis, one of the more animated coaches in the country, won't have nearly as much talent at his disposal in Year 2. SWAC Player of the Year Gregory Burks and fellow backcourt mate Blannon Campbell are gone, and SWAC Newcomer of the Year Malachi Thurston was lost because of academic reasons. Francis must rely heavily on big man Roderick Riley and a host of newcomers.

Coach: Jerry Francis (17-12, 1 year).

Projected starters: G Dashon Harper, 5-11/So. (100.0 FT%); G Kevin Cooper, 6-3/Sr.; C Roderick Riley, 6-11/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 51.7 FG%); F Derek Flora, 6-4/Sr.; F Chris Garwood, 6-9/Sr. (47.8 FG%).

Last regular-season title: 2003.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Prairie View, Texas.

Home court: Nicks Arena (5,000).

Website: www.pvamu.edu/sports

9. Alabama A&M

Outlook: After finishing no worse than third in its first three seasons after rejoining the SWAC, Alabama A&M took a major fall last season. The Bulldogs finished tied for last place with Arkansas-Pine Bluff. Coach Vann Pettaway's bunch lost five games by one point, not including two overtime losses. Pettaway vows to return Alabama A&M to prominence, and he plans to do so by getting back to the swarming, trapping defense league teams feared in recent years. It won't be easy; the team's three leading scorers from a year ago departed. Six players who played a lot return, led by guard Rickey Ricketts. Incoming guard Dejuan Robinson

and forward Patrick Hillman should help.

Coach: Vann Pettaway (353-150, 17 years).

Projected starters: G Rickey Ricketts, 6-2/Jr. (35.0 3PT%); G Obie Trotter, 6-1/So. (80.0 FT%); F Terry Horton, 6-3/Sr. (48.5 FG%, 43.5 3PT%); F Otis Walker, 6-6/Sr.; F Jarvis Smith, 6-8/Sr.

Last regular-season title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Normal, Ala.

Home court: T.M. Elmore Gym (6,000).

Website: www.aamu.edu/PR/sports/athletics.htm

10. Arkansas-Pine Bluff

Outlook: The team won just four games last season under interim coach Van Holt, who was promoted to head coach in May. If there's a bright side, that's two more wins than the Golden Lions managed in each of the previous two seasons. Arkansas-Pine Bluff was competitive in many conference games, but it's hard to project Holt and Co. making much progress this season, especially considering five of the top seven scorers from last year's team are gone. Forwards Chris Parker and Justin Lloyd will be asked to carry much of the scoring load.

Coach: Van Holt (4-24, 1 year).

Projected starters: G Lee Curry, 6-1/Sr.; G Brandon Jones, 6-1/Sr.; G Tamarrius Brown, 6-0/Jr. (JC transfer); F Chris Parker, 6-5/Sr. (77.5 FT%); F Justin Lloyd, 6-7/Sr.

Last regular-season title: 1967.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Pine Bluff, Ark.

Home court: HYPER Complex (8,000).

Website: www.uapb.edu

Independents

By Roseanna Smith, Sporting News

2002-03 records

	Overall	
	W	L
Centenary*	14	14
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi	14	15
Texas Pan American	10	20
IUPUI-Fort Wayne	9	21
Lipscomb**	8	20
Morris Brown***	8	20
Savannah State	3	24

*Joined Mid-Continent Conference.

**Joined Atlantic Sun Conference.

***Dropped basketball program.

IUPUI-Fort Wayne

Outlook: If coach Doug Noll manages to get just 10 more points a game out of his players, this team could enjoy a drastic improvement from its 9-21 record last season. The Mastodons were outscored by an average of 8.1 points, and five of their losses were by 10 points or less. The team's top three scorers, including forward Ric Wyand (12.6 ppg) and shooting guard Jim Kessenich (12.5 ppg), return. A five-game swing from last season, which might be possible if there is better rebounding, would go a long way toward building a winning attitude in the program as it winds its way through a third season in Division I. A shift from a three-guard lineup to a bigger lineup

should help the Mastadons' efforts on the glass.

Key player: F/C Jim Kessenich, 6-10/Sr. (12.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 54.1 FG%, 39.5 3PT%, 80.0 FT%).

Coach: Doug Noll (16-42, 2 years Division I).

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Fort Wayne, Ind.

Home court: Allen Co. Memorial Coliseum (10,500).

Website: www.ipfw.edu/athletics

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

Outlook: Though the Islanders finished just under .500 last season at 14-15, this year's squad should reap the benefits of some sacrifices in 2002-03. Facing Hawaii, LSU, UAB, Florida State, Oklahoma State and Arkansas State was painful last season (the loss to UAB was 108-74), but the four returning starters should have a solid base of experience. The backcourt of Travis Bailey (15.0 ppg) and Brian Evans (13.9 ppg) provides some firepower, especially if Evans can resist taking the 3-pointers he rarely hits. Both have the athleticism and ballhandling skills to present tough matchups. Junior college transfers Corey Johnson and Corey Stokes should offer immediate help.

Key player: G Travis Bailey, 6-3/Sr. (15.0 ppg, 3.3 apg, 41.5 FG%, 82.3 FT%).

Coach: Ronnie Arrow (53-57, 4 years; 167-150 overall, 11 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament).

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Corpus Christi, Texas.

Home court: Memorial Coliseum (4,000).

Website: www.goislanders.com

Texas-Pan American

Outlook: The Broncos need to get off to a strong start with their first four games at home, where they were 8-3 last season, or a neutral site. The rest of the schedule holds some tough tests,

including three Big 12 opponents. Gone is Kevin Mitchell, who led the team in scoring, 3-pointers and steals and was second in assists. Coach Bob Hoffman will turn to senior forward Allen Holcomb as his floor leader. Last season, Holcomb was the Broncos' top rebounder and second-leading scorer. He should get help in the frontcourt from big-bodied junior college transfers Alvidas Gedminas (7-0) and Ryan Lange (6-11).

Key player: F Allen Holcomb, 6-5/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 7.5 rebounds, 48.0 FG%).

Coach: Bob Hoffman (54-63, 4 years; 385-157 overall, 15 years).

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Edinburg, Texas.

Home court: UTPA Fieldhouse (4,000).

Website: www.panam.edu/athletics

Savannah State

Outlook: After being hired August 15, 2002, coach Edward Daniels Jr. didn't have a chance to build his own team. He made the most of a solid frontcourt, though, and won one more game than the Tigers did the year before, though that translated only three victories. Daniels got some recruiting done for the 2003-04 squad and is excited about bringing in two junior college recruits among the freshmen. They join returning top scorer Jamal Daniels and assists leader Chris Daniels. The Tigers will run this season and try to put more pressure on opponents.

Key player: G Jamal Daniels, 6-4/So. (10.4 ppg, 4.4 rpg).

Coach: Edward Daniels, Jr. (3-24, 1 year).

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Savannah, Ga.

Home court: Tiger Arena (5,600).

Website: www.savstate.edu

America East

Albany

N21 at Siena
N28 at Pittsburgh
D2 at Colgate
D5 Army
D10 at Long Island
D20 Sacred Heart
D22 Lehigh
D28 at Providence
D30 Wagner
J2 UMB
J4 Boston University
J8 at New Hampshire
J11 at Northeastern
J14 Binghamton
J18 at Maine
J21 at Stony Brook
J25 at Hartford
J28 Vermont
J31 at Boston University
F4 at UMB
F7 New Hampshire
F11 at Binghamton
F14 Maine
F18 Stony Brook
F21 Hartford
F26 at Vermont
F29 Northeastern
Binghamton
N20-23 Top World Classic*
N30 TBA
D5 Long Island
D7 at Lafayette
D13 at Syracuse
D17 at St. Francis
D29 at Kansas
J2 Vermont
J4 Texas A&M-CC
J7 Maine
J10 at Boston University
J14 at Albany
J17 New Hampshire
J19 at Hartford
J21 at Northeastern
J25 Stony Brook
J28 at UMB
J31 Hartford
F5 at Vermont
F8 at Maine
F11 Albany
F14 at New Hampshire
F18 Northeastern
F22 at Stony Brook
F25 UMB
F29 Boston University
*at Fairbanks, Alaska
Boston University
N22 at Holy Cross
N25 St. Joseph's
N29 at Boston College
D1 Youngstown St.
D3 at Ohio
D9 Harvard
D22 Cleveland St.
D28 at Fordham
D30 at Michigan
J2 New Hampshire
J4 at Albany
J7 at Hartford
J10 Binghamton
J14 at UMB
J17 Vermont
J21 Maine
J25 at Northeastern
J28 at Stony Brook
J31 Albany
F4 at New Hampshire
F7 Hartford
F12 UMB
F15 at Vermont
F18 at Maine
F22 Northeastern
F26 Stony Brook
F29 at Binghamton
Hartford
N21 Concordia
N24 at Massachusetts
N29 at Long Island
D4 George Mason
D13 at N.C. State
D27-28 Florida Inter. Tr.*

J2 at Maine
J4 Brown
J7 Boston University
J10 at UMB
J14 at Northeastern
J17 Stony Brook
J19 Binghamton
J23 at Dartmouth
J25 Albany
J28 at New Hampshire
J31 at Binghamton
F4 Maine
F7 at Boston University
F11 Northeastern
F14 at Stony Brook
F18 Vermont
F21 at Albany
F23 at Vermont
F26 New Hampshire
F29 UMB
*at Miami
Maine
N21 at Florida St.
N24 at Bethune-Cookman
N28 U. of New England
N29 Brown
D2 at Harvard
D16 Dartmouth
D20 Morgan St.
D23 at Massachusetts
D30 Colby College
J2 Hartford
J4 Stony Brook
J7 at Binghamton
J11 Vermont
J14 at New Hampshire
J18 Albany
J21 at Boston University
J24 UMB
J28 Northeastern
J31 at Stony Brook
F4 at Hartford
F8 Binghamton
F11 New Hampshire
F14 at Albany
F18 Boston University
F21 at UMB
F26 at Northeastern
F29 at Vermont
Md.-Balt. County
N22-24 Battle of Baltimore
D2 Princeton
D6 Delaware
D9 at Miami (Fla.)
D13 at Towson
D20 at San Francisco
D22 at Santa Clara
D30 at Ohio St.
J2 at Albany
J4 Vermont
J7 at Stony Brook
J10 Hartford
J14 Boston University
J17 Northeastern
J21 at New Hampshire
J24 at Maine
J28 Binghamton
J31 at Vermont
F4 Albany
F8 Stony Brook
F12 at Boston University
F14 at Northeastern
F18 New Hampshire
F21 Maine
F25 at Binghamton
F29 at Hartford
New Hampshire
N22 at Virginia Tech
N29 at Harvard
D2 Mount St. Mary's
D5 Colgate
D7 Cornell
D14 Dartmouth
D21 at Rhode Island
D27 at Pittsburgh
D30 at Army
J2 at Boston University
J4 Northeastern
J8 Albany
J11 at Stony Brook
J14 Maine
J17 at Binghamton
J21 UMB
J24 at Vermont

J28 Hartford
J31 at Northeastern
F4 Boston University
F7 at Albany
F11 at Maine
F14 Binghamton
F18 at UMB
F21 Vermont
F26 at Hartford
F29 Stony Brook
Northeastern
N21-26 Las Vegas Invit.*
N29 at West Virginia
D2 Suffolk
D6 at Fordham
D12 at Villanova
D14 Marist
D19 Harvard
D29 Curry College
J2 Stony Brook
J4 at New Hampshire
J7 at Vermont
J10 Albany
J14 Hartford
J18 at UMB
J21 Binghamton
J24 Boston
J28 at Maine
J31 New Hampshire
F5 at Stony Brook
F8 Vermont
F11 at Hartford
F14 UMB
F18 at Binghamton
F22 at Boston
F26 Maine
F29 at Albany
*at Las Vegas
Stony Brook
N21 Dartmouth
N23 Utah
N25 at Lehigh
N29 St. John's
D14 at Hofstra
D20 Columbia
D23 at Boston College
D30 Brown
J2 at Northeastern
J4 at Maine
J7 UMB
J11 New Hampshire
J14 at Vermont
J17 at Hartford
J21 Albany
J25 at Binghamton
J28 Boston
J31 Maine
F5 Northeastern
F8 at UMB
F11 Vermont
F14 Hartford
F18 at Albany
F22 Binghamton
F26 at Boston University
F29 at New Hampshire
Vermont
N17-28 Preseason NIT
N24 Iona*
N29 at UCLA
D5 Cornell
D8 at Rhode Island
D11 Saint Michael's
D14 Harvard
D21 at Marist
J2 at Binghamton
J4 at UMB
J7 Northeastern
J11 at Maine
J14 Stony Brook
J17 at Boston University
J21 at Dartmouth
J24 New Hampshire
J28 at Albany
J31 UMB
F5 Binghamton
F8 at Northeastern
F11 at Stony Brook
F15 Boston University
F18 at Hartford
F21 at New Hampshire
F23 Hartford
F26 Albany

F29 Maine
*at White Plains, N.Y.
Atlantic Sun
Belmont
N21 Vanderbilt
N24 at Navy
N26 Austin Peay
N30 Air Force
D4 at Georgia St.
D6 at Mercer
D18 at Memphis
D20 Fisk
D30 at Missouri
J3 Jacksonville
J5 Stetson
J8 at Troy St.
J17 at Florida Atlantic
J19 at Central Florida
J22 Gardner-Webb
J24 Campbell
J28 at Lipscomb
J31 at Gardner-Webb
F2 at Campbell
F5 Central Florida
F7 Florida Atlantic
F13 Lipscomb
F15 Troy St.
F19 at Stetson
F21 at Jacksonville
F26 Mercer
F28 Georgia St.
Campbell
N22 at East Carolina
N25 UNC Greensboro
N29 at South Carolina
D1 UNC Wilmington
D9 at UNC Greensboro
D15 Central Florida
D17 Florida Atlantic
D20 at Coastal Carolina
D30 at William & Mary
J3 Troy St.
J8 at Georgia St.
J10 at Mercer
J14 Gardner-Webb
J17 Jacksonville
J19 Stetson
J22 at Lipscomb
J24 at Belmont
J28 at Troy St.
J31 Lipscomb
F2 Belmont
F5 at Stetson
F7 at Jacksonville
F12 Mercer
F14 Georgia St.
F20 at Gardner-Webb
F26 at Florida Atlantic
F28 at Central Florida
Central Florida
N26 at Coll. of Charleston
N28 at The Citadel
D4 Florida*
D6 Navy
D15 at Campbell
D17 at Gardner-Webb
D22 at Niagara
D30 Tennessee-Martin
J3 Georgia St.
J5 Mercer
J9 at Stetson
J11 at Jacksonville
J14 at Florida Atlantic
J17 Lipscomb
J19 Belmont
J23 at Troy St.
J28 Florida Atlantic
J31 Troy St.
F5 at Belmont
F7 at Lipscomb
F12 Jacksonville
F14 Stetson
F19 at Mercer
F21 at Georgia St.
F26 Gardner-Webb
F28 Campbell
*at Jacksonville
Florida Atlantic
N21 at South Florida
N25 at Georgia
D1 Florida International
D6 Barry
D15 at Gardner-Webb

D17 at Campbell
D20 James Madison
D27 at Miami
D29 Mary Washington
J3 Mercer
J5 Georgia St.
J9 at Jacksonville
J11 at Stetson
J14 Central Florida
J17 Belmont
J19 Lipscomb
J25 at Troy St.
J28 at Central Florida
F2 Troy St.
F5 at Lipscomb
F7 at Belmont
F12 Stetson
F14 Jacksonville
F19 at Georgia St.
F22 at Mercer
F26 Campbell
F28 Gardner-Webb
Gardner-Webb
N17-18 Guardians Cl.*
N21 at Clemson
N23 at Indiana St.
N29 at Kansas St.
D2 North Greenville
D6 at Colorado St.
D15 Florida Atlantic
D17 Central Florida
D19 at East Carolina
D30 Limestone
J5 Troy St.
J8 at Mercer
J10 at Georgia St.
J14 at Campbell
J17 Stetson
J19 Jacksonville
J22 at Belmont
J24 at Lipscomb
J31 Belmont
F2 Lipscomb
F5 Jacksonville
F7 at Stetson
F12 Georgia St.
F14 Mercer
F20 Campbell
F22 at Troy St.
F26 at Central Florida
F28 at Florida Atlantic
*at Columbia, S.C.
Georgia St.
N17-28 Preseason NIT
N22 Anderson
D1 Tulsa*
D4 Belmont
D6 Lipscomb
D12 South Alabama
D20 at Tennessee
D22 at Auburn
D31 West Florida
J3 at Central Florida
J5 at Florida Atlantic
J8 Campbell
J10 Gardner-Webb
J13 Troy St.
J16 Mercer
J22 at Jacksonville
J24 at Stetson
J27 at Mercer
J30 Jacksonville
F1 Stetson
F6 at Troy St.
F12 at Gardner-Webb
F14 at Campbell
F19 Florida Atlantic
F21 Central Florida
F26 at Lipscomb
F28 at Belmont
*at Duluth, Minn.
Jacksonville
N24 at UNC Wilmington
N29 Arkansas*
J3 at Belmont
J5 at Lipscomb
J9 Florida Atlantic
J11 Central Florida
J14 at Stetson
J17 at Campbell
J19 at Gardner-Webb
J22 Georgia St.
J24 Mercer
J27 Stetson

J30 at Georgia St.
F1 at Mercer
F5 Gardner-Webb
F7 Campbell
F12 at Central Florida
F14 at Florida Atlantic
F19 Lipscomb
F21 Belmont
F27 Troy St.
*at Little Rock, Ark.
Lipscomb
N25 at Kansas St.
N29 Fisk
D1 IUPUI
D4 at Mercer
D6 at Georgia St.
D12 Pepperdine
D18 Univ. of the South
D22 at Nebraska
D29-30 Furman Classic*
J3 Stetson
J5 Jacksonville
J10 at Troy St.
J17 at Central Florida
J19 at Florida Atlantic
J22 Campbell
J24 Gardner-Webb
J28 Belmont
J31 at Campbell
F2 at Gardner-Webb
F5 Florida Atlantic
F7 Central Florida
F13 at Belmont
F17 Troy St.
F19 at Jacksonville
F21 at Stetson
F26 Georgia St.
F28 Mercer
*at Greenville, S.C.
Mercer
N15-17 BCA Classic*
N26 at Illinois
N28 at Iowa St.
D1 at Georgia Southern
D4 Lipscomb
D6 Belmont
D9 Fort Valley St.
D17 Elon
D27 at Alabama
J3 at Florida Atlantic
J5 at Central Florida
J8 Gardner-Webb
J10 Campbell
J16 at Georgia St.
J19 Troy St.
J22 at Stetson
J24 at Jacksonville
J27 Georgia St.
J30 Stetson
F1 Jacksonville
F8 at Troy St.
F12 at Campbell
F14 at Gardner-Webb
F19 Central Florida
F21 Florida Atlantic
F26 at Belmont
F28 at Lipscomb
*at Cincinnati
Stetson
N21 Flagler
N24 P. Rico-Mayaguez
D2 at Miami
D15 at Troy St.
D20 Colorado St.
D22 at Florida
D30 Florida St.
J3 at Lipscomb
J5 at Belmont
J9 Central Florida
J11 Florida Atlantic
J14 Jacksonville
J17 at Gardner-Webb
J19 at Campbell
J22 Mercer
J24 Georgia St.
J27 at Jacksonville
J30 at Mercer
F1 at Georgia St.
F5 Campbell
F7 Gardner-Webb
F12 at Florida Atlantic
F14 at Central Florida
F19 Belmont
F21 Lipscomb

F29 Troy St.
Troy St.
N26 at Louisiana St.
N30 at San Diego St.
D15 Stetson
D17 Jacksonville
D20 at Northwestern St.
D29-30 UWGB Classic*
J3 at Campbell
J5 at Gardner-Webb
J8 Belmont
J10 Lipscomb
J13 at Georgia St.
J19 at Mercer
J23 Central Florida
J25 Florida Atlantic
J28 Campbell
J31 at Central Florida
F2 at Florida Atlantic
F6 Georgia St.
F8 Mercer
F15 at Belmont
F17 at Lipscomb
F22 Gardner-Webb
D29 at Jacksonville
F9 at Stetson
*at Green Bay, Wis.
Big Sky
Eastern Washington
N21-22 Sooner Invit.*
N26 Denver
N29 at Washington
D2 Northwest College
D5-6 Hawkeye Chall.**
D13 at Cal. St.-Fullerton
D15 Santa Clara
D20 at San Diego St.
D27 at Idaho
D31 Gonzaga
J3 at Santa Clara
J8 Montana
J10 Montana St.
J15 at Northern Arizona
J17 at Sacramento St.
J24 at Portland St.
J29 Idaho St.
J31 Weber St.
F5 at Montana St.
F7 at Montana
F12 Sacramento St.
F14 Northern Arizona
F21 Portland St.
F26 at Weber St.
F28 at Idaho St.
*at Norman, Okla.
**at Iowa City, Iowa
Idaho St.
N20-23 Top World Classic*
N26 at Idaho
D2 at Tennessee Tech
D5-6 Cyclone Challenge**
D10 Boise St.
D13 Utah St.
D19 New Orleans***
D20 Texas Southern***
D29-30 Cable Car Cl.****
J3 Rocky Mountain
J6 Montana-Western
J10 Weber St.
J15 at Montana
J17 at Montana St.
J22 Sacramento St.
J24 Northern Arizona
J29 at East. Washington
J31 at Portland St.
F7 at Weber St.
F12 Montana St.
F14 Montana
F19 at Northern Arizona
F21 at Sacramento St.
F26 Portland St.
F28 Eastern Washington
*at Fairbanks, Alaska
**at Ames, Iowa
***at Honolulu
****at Santa Clara, Calif.
Montana
N22 at Wis.-Milwaukee
N26 Montana Tech
N29-30 UC Santa Barb.
D3 at CS Northridge
D6 San Francisco
D10 at Auburn

D13 Washington St.
D16 Jackson St.
D21 at Southern Illinois
D27 CS Northridge
D30 at UNLV
J4 at Gonzaga
J8 at Eastern Wash.
J10 at Portland St.
J15 Idaho St.
J17 Weber St.
J24 at Montana St.
J29 at Northern Arizona
J31 at Sacramento St.
F5 Portland St.
F7 Eastern Washington
F12 at Weber St.
F14 at Idaho St.
F21 Montana St.
F26 Sacramento St.
F28 Northern Arizona
Montana St.
N21-23 Florida Int. Tour.*
N25 at Florida
D29 Idaho
D3 at Denver
D6 Santa Clara
D13 Wyoming**
D20 Denver
D22 Univ. of Mary
D29-30 Montana St. Tour.
J2 Rocky Mountain
J5 Colorado St.
J8 at Portland St.
J10 at Eastern Wash.
J15 Weber St.
J17 Idaho St.
J24 Montana
J29 at Sacramento St.
J31 at Northern Arizona
F5 Eastern Washington
F7 Portland St.
F12 at Idaho St.
F14 at Weber St.
F21 at Montana
F25 Northern Arizona
F29 Sacramento St.
*at Miami
**at Casper, Wyo.
Northern Arizona
N21 CS Fullerton
N24 at Arizona
N26 San Jose Christian
N29 at Wichita St.
D1 at Oral Roberts
D6 at CS Fullerton
D13 West. New Mexico
D15 at UC Riverside
D18 at UNLV
D20 San Diego
D28 at Marist
D30 at Quinnipiac
J3 Portland
J10 at Sacramento St.
J15 Eastern Washington
J17 Portland St.
J22 at Weber St.
J24 at Idaho St.
J29 Montana
J31 Montana St.
F7 Sacramento St.
F12 at Portland St.
F14 at Eastern Wash.
F19 Idaho St.
F21 Weber St.
F25 at Montana St.
F28 at Montana
Portland St.
N14 Northwest Nazarene
N21 at Washington
N25 Southern Oregon
N29 at Texas-El Paso
D1 at Oregon
D6 at Portland
D10 Pacific
D13 at Jackson St.
D16 at Boise St.
D19 Portland
D22 at CS Northridge
D27 at Md.-East. Shore
D30 at Tennessee St.
J2 at Tennessee-Martin
J8 Montana St.
J10 Montana
J15 at Sacramento St.

J17 at Northern Arizona	F21 Savannah St.	D28-30 Fiesta Bowl Cl.**	F9 at James Madison	N26 at Saint Mary's	J5 at UC Riverside	Utah St.	J3 Towson
J24 Eastern Washington	F25 Radford	J3 at Coastal Carolina	F11 UNC Asheville	N29-30 Montana Classic*	J8 UC Irvine	N21 Ft. Lewis College	J7 Old Dominion
J29 Weber St.	F28 VMI	J5 at Charleston So.	F14 at Coastal Carolina	D10 Pepperdine	J10 Long Beach St.	N25 at Weber St.	J10 at William & Mary
J31 Idaho St.	*at Moraga, Calif.	J8 UNC Asheville	F16 at Charleston So.	D13 Westmont College	J15 at Idaho	N29 Illinois St.	J14 Hofstra
F5 at Montana	Charleston Southern	J10 High Point	F21 Liberty	D13 San Diego	J17 at Utah St.	D3 at Utah	J17 at Va. Commonwealth
F7 at Montana St.	N21 Coll. of Charleston	J14 at Radford	F25 High Point	D17 at UCLA	J22 at UC Santa Barbara	D13 at Idaho St.	J21 at UNC Wilmington
F12 Northern Arizona	N24 Webber Int'l	J20 VMI	F28 at Birmingham So.	D20 Kansas**	J24 Cal Poly	D18 Jackson St.	J24 James Madison
F14 Sacramento St.	N29-30 Central Conn. St. Tr.	J24 Winthrop	*at Fairbanks, Alaska	D21 Alabama St.**	J31 Pacific	D23 BYU	J26 at Drexel
F21 at Eastern Wash.	D10 Voorhees	J27 at Birmingham So.	N19-21 BCA Classic*	J3 at Long Beach St.	F5 at Long Beach St.	D29-30 Utah St. Tour.	J28 at Delaware
F26 at Idaho St.	D13 at Wofford	J31 at High Point	D2 Eastern Kentucky	J5 at UC Irvine	F7 at UC Irvine	J3 Idaho	J31 William & Mary
F28 at Weber St.	D17 at South Carolina	F4 at UNC Asheville	D5-6 Winthrop Tour.	J8 Utah St.	F12 Utah St.	J8 at UC Santa Barbara	F4 at Towson
Sacramento St.	D20 at Air Force	F7 Charleston Southern	D9 at Georgia	J10 Idaho	F14 Idaho	J10 at Cal Poly	F7 at James Madison
N22 at Stanford	D22 at Georgia	F9 Coastal Carolina	D20 at Wyoming	J17 at Cal Poly	F19 at Cal Poly	J15 Pacific	F11 Va. Commonwealth
N25 Dominican	D29-30 Furman Classic	F14 Birmingham So.	D22 at Weber St.	J22 at CS Northridge	F21 UC Santa Barbara	J17 CS Northridge	F14 Drexel
N29 at CS Fullerton	J5 High Point	F18 at Winthrop	D29-30 Hoops Classic**	J24 at Pacific	F28 at Pacific	J22 at CS Fullerton	F18 at Hofstra
D2 San Jose Christian	J3 Liberty	F21 at VMI	J4 Birmingham So.	J29 UC Riverside	M4 UC Riverside	J24 at UC Riverside	F21 Delaware
D6 at Cal Poly	J10 at Birmingham So.	F28 Radford	J5 Radford	J31 CS Fullerton	M6 CS Fullerton	J29 UC Irvine	F25 UNC Wilmington
D8 at New Mexico	J13 Coastal Carolina	*at Anchorage, Alaska	J8 at High Point	F5 at Idaho	Idaho	J31 Long Beach St.	F28 at Old Dominion
D13 at San Jose St.	J17 UNC Asheville	**at Tucson, Ariz.	J10 VMI	F7 at Utah St.	N21 at Gonzaga	F5 Cal Poly	Hofstra
D20 UC Irvine	J21 at Winthrop	UNC Asheville	J14 at UNC Asheville	F14 Cal Poly	N26 Idaho St.	F7 UC Santa Barbara	N17-28 Preseason NIT
D22 at Oregon St.	J26 at Radford	N21 at N.C. State	J17 at Coastal Carolina	F19 Pacific	N29 at Montana St.	F12 at CS Northridge	N22 at Providence
D27 Long Beach St.	J28 at VMI	N23 at Iowa	J21 Charleston Southern	F21 CS Northridge	D6 Boise St.	F14 at Pacific	N29 Maryland
D29 UC Riverside	F2 Birmingham So.	N26 Brevard	J24 at Liberty	F26 at CS Fullerton	D9 at Washington St.	F19 UC Riverside	D2 St. John's
J3 at San Francisco	F7 at Liberty	D3 East Tennessee St.	J31 at VMI	F28 at UC Riverside	D13 at Boise St.	F21 CS Fullerton	D6 at Columbia
J5 St. Mary's	F9 at High Point	D6 at Western Carolina	F4 High Point	M4 UC Irvine	D16 Great Falls	F26 at Long Beach St.	D10 at Monmouth
J10 Northern Arizona	F14 Radford	D14 Furman	F7 at Radford	M6 Long Beach St.	D27 Eastern Washington	F28 at UC Irvine	D13 Stony Brook
J15 Portland St.	F16 VMI	D17 at UNC Wilmington	F11 at Birmingham So.	*at Missoula, Mont.	J3 at Utah St.	M5 at Idaho	D23 St. Peter's
J17 Eastern Washington	F21 Winthrop	D28 at Syracuse	F14 TBA	**at Reno, Nev.	J8 at Cal Poly	Colonial	D30 at Manhattan
J22 at Idaho St.	F24 UNC Asheville	D30 at Tennessee	F17 Liberty	Cal Poly	J10 at UC Santa Barbara	Delaware	J3 at Delaware
J24 at Weber St.	F28 at Coastal Carolina	J3 VMI	F21 at Charleston So.	N21 at California	J15 CS Northridge	N25 at Mount St. Mary's	J5 Va. Commonwealth
J29 Montana St.	Coastal Carolina	J5 Birmingham Southern	F25 Coastal Carolina	N26 Colorado	J17 Pacific	N30 San Francisco	J7 Towson
J31 Montana	N22-23 Marist Classic*	J8 at Liberty	F28 UNC Asheville	N29 San Jose St.	J22 at UC Riverside	D3 at Long Island	J10 at Old Dominion
F7 at Northern Arizona	N25 at Georgetown	J10 at Radford	*at Lexington, Ky.	D3 at Loyola Marymount	J24 at CS Fullerton	D6 at Md.-Balt. County	J14 at George Mason
F12 at Eastern Wash.	N29 at East Carolina	J17 at Char. Southern	Big West	D6 Sacramento St.	J29 Long Beach St.	D10 Loyola (Md.)	J17 UNC Wilmington
F14 at Portland St.	D6 Coll. of Charleston	J19 at Coastal Carolina	UC Irvine	D18 at San Diego St.	J31 UC Irvine	D13 at Rider	J21 at James Madison
F19 Weber St.	D14 St. Andrews	J22 Montreat	N15-17 BCA Classic*	D22 at USC	F5 UC Santa Barbara	D23 Siena	J24 William & Mary
F21 Idaho St.	D18 UNC Greensboro	J26 High Point	N21 UC San Diego	D29 CS Stanislaus	F7 Cal Poly	D30 Saint Joseph's (Pa.)	J28 Drexel
F26 at Montana	D20 Campbell	J31 Radford	N25 Stanford	F12 at Pacific	F12 at Pacific	J3 Hofstra	J31 at Va. Commonwealth
F29 at Montana St.	D22 at Virginia	F4 Liberty	D3 at California	J5 at Long Beach St.	F14 at CS Northridge	J7 at Va. Commonwealth	F4 Delaware
Weber St.	D28 Lees-McRae	F8 at Birmingham So.	D10 Pepperdine	J8 Idaho	F19 CS Fullerton	J10 at Towson	F7 Old Dominion
N21 Albion's College	D30 at North Carolina	F11 at VMI	D20 at Sacramento St.	J10 Utah St.	F21 UC Riverside	J12 James Madison	F11 at Drexel
N25 Utah St.	J3 Liberty	F14 at High Point	J3 Cal Poly	J17 UC Santa Barbara	F26 at UC Irvine	J14 at Drexel	F14 at William & Mary
N28 Warner Pacific	J5 High Point	F16 at Charleston So.	D5-6 McCaffrey Classic**	J22 at Pacific	F28 at Long Beach St.	J17 Old Dominion	F18 George Mason
D2 at Southern Utah	J8 at Birmingham So.	F21 Coastal Carolina	D18 at Sacramento St.	J24 at CS Northridge	M6 Utah St.	J21 William & Mary	F21 James Madison
D5-6 SW Missouri Classic*	J13 at Charleston So.	F24 Charleston Southern	J31 Radford	J29 CS Fullerton	Long Beach St.	J24 at UNC Wilmington	F25 at Towson
D13 at Nevada	J17 Winthrop	F28 at Winthrop	J5 UC Santa Barbara	J31 UC Riverside	N21 at San Diego St.	J28 George Mason	F28 at UNC Wilmington
D16 Portland	J19 UNC Asheville	Radford	J8 at Pacific	F5 at Utah St.	N29 at Portland	J31 at James Madison	James Madison
D20 at Brigham Young	J24 at Radford	N22 Bluefield	J10 at CS Northridge	F7 at Idaho	D3 UC Santa Barbara	F4 at Hofstra	N22 Furman
D22 Winthrop	J26 at VMI	N24 William & Mary	J15 UC Riverside	F14 at UC Santa Barbara	J5 Cal Poly	F7 Towson	N24 West Virginia
D29-30 UWGB Classic**	J31 Birmingham So.	N26 at North Carolina A&T	J17 CS Fullerton	F19 CS Northridge	J8 at Pacific	F11 at William & Mary	N30 Navy
J3 Utah	F7 at High Point	N29 Akron	J24 at Long Beach St.	F21 Pacific	J10 at CS Northridge	F14 at Old Dominion	D3 at La Salle
J10 at Idaho St.	F9 at Liberty	D2 American	J29 at Utah St.	F26 at UC Riverside	J15 CS Fullerton	F16 UNC Wilmington	D6 at Akron
J15 at Montana St.	F14 VMI	D4 Marshall	J31 at Idaho	F28 at CS Fullerton	J17 UC Riverside	F21 at George Mason	D16 at Virginia
J17 at Montana	F16 Radford	D6 at Howard	F5 Pacific	M4 Long Beach St.	J24 UC Irvine	F26 Va. Commonwealth	D20 at Florida Atlantic
J22 Northern Arizona	F21 at UNC Asheville	D13 at Virginia Tech	F7 CS Northridge	M6 UC Irvine	J29 at Idaho	F28 Drexel	D30 at Appalachian St.
J24 Sacramento St.	F23 at Winthrop	D22 at Clemson	F14 at CS Fullerton	CS Fullerton	J31 at Utah St.	Drexel	J1 UNC Wilmington
J29 at Portland St.	F28 Charleston So.	D30 at East Carolina	F18 Long Beach St.	N21 at Northern Arizona	F5 CS Northridge	N19-21 BCA Classic*	J7 Drexel
J31 at Eastern Wash.	*at Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	J5 at Winthrop	F21 Bracket Buster	N24 at Arizona St.	F7 Pacific	N24 Penn	J10 Va. Commonwealth
F7 Idaho St.	High Point	J8 at VMI	F26 Idaho	N29 Sacramento St.	F12 at UC Riverside	N29 at Colgate	J12 at Delaware
F12 Montana	N21 Allen	J10 UNC Asheville	F28 Utah St.	D1 at Pepperdine	F14 at CS Fullerton	D2 Lafayette	J14 Old Dominion
F14 Montana St.	N24 at Clemson	J14 Liberty	M4 at UC Santa Barbara	D6 Northern Arizona	F18 at UC Irvine	D6 Temple	J17 Towson
F19 at Sacramento St.	N26 at Michigan	J17 at High Point	M6 at Cal Poly	D9 at USC	F26 Utah St.	D8 Quinnipiac	J21 Hofstra
N21 at Northern Arizona	N30 at Virginia	J19 Birmingham So.	*at Cincinnati	D13 Eastern Washington	F28 Idaho	D13 Saint Joseph's	J24 at George Mason
F26 E. Washington	D2 at Western Carolina	J24 Coastal Carolina	UC Riverside	D20 Occidental	M4 at Cal Poly	D27-28 Fla. Intern'l Cl.**	J28 William & Mary
F28 Portland St.	D6 at Mount St. Mary's	J26 Charleston Southern	N21 at Fresno, Calif.	D30 Loyola Marymount	M6 at UC Santa Barbara	J3 at Old Dominion	J31 Delaware
*at Springfield, Mo.	D13 at UNC Greensboro	J31 at UNC Asheville	CS Fullerton	J3 CS Northridge	Pacific	J7 James Madison	F4 at William & Mary
**at Green Bay	D27 North Carolina A&T	F4 VMI	N21 at Northern Arizona	J5 Pacific	N21 San Jose St.	J10 at UNC Wilmington	F7 at George Mason
Big South	D30 The Citadel	F7 Winthrop	N24 at Washington	J10 at UC Riverside	N27-29 Great Alaska Shoot*	J14 Delaware	F9 VMI
Birmingham	J3 at Charleston So.	F11 Longwood	N29 at Arizona St.	J15 at Long Beach St.	D6 Nevada	J17 at William & Mary	F11 at Old Dominion
Southern	J5 at Coastal Carolina	F14 at Charleston So.	D3 at UCLA	J17 at UC Irvine	D10 Fresno St.	J21 at Towson	F14 UNC Wilmington
N21 at Kansas St.	J8 Winthrop	F16 at Coastal Carolina	D20 Southern Oregon	J22 Utah St.	D13 at Santa Clara	J24 Va. Commonwealth	F18 at Va. Commonwealth
N24 Alabama St.	J10 at Liberty	F21 High Point	D22 Saint Mary's	J24 Idaho	D20 at Lamar	J26 George Mason	F21 at Hofstra
N26 Millsaps	J14 VMI	F25 at Birmingham So.	D29 at Sacramento St.	J29 at Cal Poly	D23 at San Francisco	J28 at Hofstra	F25 Drexel
N29 LaGrange	J17 Radford	F28 at Liberty	J3 Pacific	J31 at UC Santa Barbara	D27 at Saint Joseph's	J31 UNC Wilmington	F28 at Towson
D3 at UAB	J26 at Birmingham So.	VMI	J3 CS Northridge	F7 UC Riverside	D30 CS Stanislaus	F4 at Va. Commonwealth	UNC Wilmington
D6 Robert Morris	J31 Liberty	N20-23 Top World Classic*	J10 CS Fullerton	F12 UC Irvine	J3 at UC Riverside	F7 William & Mary	N21 at Marshall
D18 at Savannah St.	F4 at Winthrop	D2 Southern Virginia	J15 at UC Irvine	F14 Long Beach St.	J5 at CS Fullerton	F11 Hofstra	N24 Jacksonville
D21 at Nicholls St.	F7 Coastal Carolina	D5 Virginia	J17 at Long Beach St.	F19 at Idaho	J8 Long Beach St.	F14 at George Mason	N29 at E. Tennessee St.
D28-29 Shamrock Classic*	F9 Charleston Southern	D10 at Virginia Tech	J22 Idaho	F26 UC Santa Barbara	J10 UC Irvine	F18 Old Dominion	D4 at William & Mary
J3 at Winthrop	F14 UNC Asheville	D21 Eastern Mennonite	J24 Utah St.	F28 Cal Poly	J15 at Utah St.	F21 Towson	D17 UNC Asheville
J5 at UNC Asheville	F16 Birmingham So.	D23 St. Francis	J29 at UC Santa Barbara	M4 at Pacific	J17 at Idaho	F25 at James Madison	D22 Charleston
J8 Coastal Carolina	F21 at Radford	D29 at Louisville	J31 at Cal Poly	M6 at CS Northridge	J22 Cal Poly	F28 at Delaware	D28 North Carolina*
J10 Charleston Southern	F25 at VMI	D29 at Old Dominion	F7 at CS Fullerton	CS Northridge	J24 UC Santa Barbara	*at Lexington, Ky.	J1 James Madison
J17 at VMI	Liberty	J3 at UNC Asheville	F12 Long Beach St.	N21 Menlo College	F5 at UC Irvine	**at Miami	J3 at N.C. State
J19 at Radford	N21 Miami (Ohio)	J8 Radford	F14 UC Irvine	N25 at Loyola Marymount	F7 Long Beach St.	George Mason	J7 William & Mary
J23 at William & Mary	N23 at William & Mary	J10 at Winthrop	F19 at Utah St.	N30 at USC	F12 Idaho	N25 at Maryland	J10 Drexel
J27 Liberty	D27-29 Gr. Alaska Shoot*	J14 at High Point	F21 at Idaho	D3 Montana	F14 Utah St.	N29 at Iowa	J14 Va. Commonwealth
J31 at Coastal Carolina	N5 Virginia Intermont	J17 Birmingham So.	F26 Cal Poly	D6 at San Jose St.	F19 at UC Santa Barbara	D2 East Carolina	J17 at Hofstra
F2 at Charleston South.	D8 Arkansas St.	J20 at Liberty	F28 UC Santa Barbara	D19 at Utah	F21 at Cal Poly	D4 at Hartford	J19 at Towson
F8 UNC Asheville	D11 Chattanooga	J26 Coastal Carolina	M4 CS Northridge	D22 Portland St.	F28 CS Northridge	D7 at North Carolina	J21 George Mason
F11 Winthrop	D13 at Iowa St.	J28 Charleston Southern	M6 Pacific	D27 at Montana	M4 CS Fullerton	D18 McNeese St.	J24 Delaware
F14 at Liberty	D18 at Old Dominion	J31 Winthrop	UC Santa Barbara	D30 Lafayette	M6 UC Riverside	D20 at Duquesne	J28 at Old Dominion
F16 at High Point	D20 at McNeese St.	F4 at Radford	N21 at Hawaii	J3 at CS Fullerton	*at Anchorage, Alaska	D23 St. Bonaventure	J31 Drexel

F4 Old Dominion	William & Mary	D22 Western Illinois	F5 at Cleveland St.	Ivy	D16 at Maine	F6 Dartmouth	F11 at Rider
F7 at Va. Commonwealth	N23 Liberty	D30 Kent State	F7 at Youngstown St.	Brown	D20 Lehigh	F7 Harvard	F14 Canisius
F11 Towson	N24 at Radford	J3 at Illinois-Chicago	F14 Loyola	N21 at Rider	D28 at Ohio St.	F10 Penn	F16 Niagara
F14 at James Madison	N28-29 Auerbach Classic*	J5 at Wis.-Milwaukee	F18 Illinois-Chicago	N24 Wagner	J3 Harvard	F13 at Cornell	F19 Iona
F16 at Delaware	D4 UNC Wilmington	J10 Wright St.	F21 Bracket Buster	N28 Maine-Fort Kent*	J6 Holy Cross	F14 at Columbia	F22 Rider
F21 Bracket Buster	D6 at Va. Commonwealth	J15 Illinois-Chicago	F26 at Detroit	N29 Maine*	J10 at Harvard	F20 Yale	F25 at Loyola (Md.)
F25 at George Mason	D19 Hampton	J17 at Butler	F28 Wright St.	D3 Rhode Island	J14 at Quinnipiac	F21 Brown	F28 at Siena
F28 Hofstra	D23 at Virginia Tech	J19 at Cleveland St.	Wis.-Milwaukee	D6 at Ohio	J19 at Colgate	F27 Columbia	*at Honolulu
*at Myrtle Beach, S.C.	D30 Campbell	J24 Wis.-Milwaukee	N22 Montana	D9 at Providence	J21 Vermont	F28 Cornell	Iona
Old Dominion	J3 at Pittsburgh	J29 at Wis.-Green Bay	N25 Concordia-St. Paul	D21 at Holy Cross	J23 Hartford	M5 at Harvard	N21 at Va. Commonwealth
N21 at North Carolina	J7 at UNC Wilmington	J31 at Loyola (Ill.)	N29 Southern Illinois	D28 Wright St.	J30 Columbia	M6 at Dartmouth	N24 Vermont*
N29 Saint Joseph's	J10 George Mason	F5 Youngstown St.	D3 at Prairie View A&M	D30 at Stony Brook	J31 Cornell	M9 at Penn	N29 George Mason
D4 at Virginia Tech	J14 at Towson	F7 Cleveland St.	D10 at N.C. State	J4 at Hartford	F6 at Princeton	*at Fresno, Calif.	D2 Loyola
D6 Charlotte	J17 Drexel	F12 at Wright St.	D17 at Valparaiso	J6 at Wake Forest	F7 at Penn	**at Oklahoma City, Okla.	D5 at Rider
D13 Morgan St.	J21 at Delaware	F14 Butler	D13 at Wisconsin	J9 Central Connecticut	F13 Yale	Yale	D10 at St. Bonaventure
D15 South Alabama*	J24 at Hofstra	F18 Loyola (Ill.)	D23 Illinois-Chicago	J17 at Yale	F14 Brown	N17-28 Preseason NIT	D20 at Connecticut
D18 Liberty	J26 Old Dominion	F21 Bracket Buster	D29-30 Cable Car Classic*	J24 Yale	F20 at Cornell	N22-23 Marist Classic*	D23 Fordham
D20 George Washington	J28 at James Madison	F26 Wis.-Green Bay	J2 at Air Force	J30 Princeton	F21 at Columbia	N26 at Bucknell	D28 at Rhode Island
D29 VMI	J31 at George Mason	F28 at Youngstown St.	J5 Detroit	J31 Penn	F27 at Brown	N29 Wake Forest**	D31 Holy Cross
J3 Drexel	F4 James Madison	Illinois-Chicago	J10 at Loyola (Ill.)	F6 Cornell	F28 at Yale	D4 Sacred Heart	J3 at Davidson
J7 at George Mason	F7 at Drexel	N15-17 BCA Classic*	J15 Youngstown St.	F7 Columbia	M5 Penn	D7 Fairfield	J7 Marist
J10 Hofstra	F11 Delaware	N25 Evansville	J17 at Texas-S. Antonio	F13 at Harvard	M6 Princeton	D11 at St. Peter's	J11 at Niagara
J14 at James Madison	F14 Hofstra	N29 at Eastern Illinois	J22 at Cleveland St.	F14 at Dartmouth	*at Hilo, Hawaii	D20 Niagara	J13 at Canisius
J17 at Delaware	F18 Towson	D5-6 Hawkeye Challenge**	J24 at Detroit	F20 at Penn	Harvard	D30 at South Carolina	J16 Fairfield
J21 Va. Commonwealth	F25 at Old Dominion	D13 Illinois St.	J27 at Wright St.	F21 at Princeton	N21 Fairfield	J3 at American	J19 at Siena
J24 at Towson	F28 Va. Commonwealth	D20 Northwestern	J31 Wis.-Green Bay	F27 Dartmouth	N25 at Holy Cross	J7 at Rhode Island	J22 at St. Peter's
J26 at William & Mary	*at Washington, D.C.	D23 at Wis.-Milwaukee	F5 at Illinois-Chicago	F28 Harvard	N29 New Hampshire	J10 SUNY Old Westbury	J25 Manhattan
J28 UNC Wilmington	Horizon	D30 Illinois	F7 Wright St.	M5 at Columbia	D2 Maine	J17 Brown	J30 Canisius
J31 Towson	Butler	J3 Detroit	F12 Loyola (Ill.)	M6 at Cornell	D6 at Lehigh	J23 at Brown	F1 Niagara
F4 at UNC Wilmington	N23 Quincy	J5 Youngstown St.	F14 at Youngstown St.	*at Orono, Maine	D9 at Boston University	J30 Penn	F7 Siena
F7 at Hofstra	N25 at Northern Iowa	J8 Loyola (Ill.)	F21 Bracket Buster	Columbia	D12 Colgate	J31 Princeton	F13 at Manhattan
F11 James Madison	N30 Michigan	J15 at Detroit	F28 Cleveland St.	N21 at Army	D14 at Vermont	F6 Columbia	F15 at Marist
F14 Delaware	D3 at Ball State	J17 Cleveland St.	TBA Butler	N24 Manhattan	D19 at Northeastern	F7 Cornell	F19 at Fairfield
F18 at Drexel	D6 Evansville	J21 at Wright St.	TBA at Butler	D2 at Sacred Heart	D22 Rider	F13 at Dartmouth	F24 Rider
F21 at Va. Commonwealth	D9 at Bradley	J24 Wis.-Green Bay	*at Santa Clara, Calif.	D6 Hofstra	D28 at Stanford	F14 at Harvard	F27 St. Peter's
F25 William & Mary	D13 at Indiana	J26 at Loyola (Ill.)	Wright St.	D8 Lehigh	D30 at San Jose St.	F20 at Princeton	F29 at Loyola
F28 George Mason	D20 Indiana St.	J31 at Butler	N25 Cedarville	D20 at Stony Brook	J3 at Dartmouth	F21 at Penn	*at White Plains, N.Y.
*at Mobile, Ala.	D22 Wis.-Green Bay	F5 Wis.-Milwaukee	N29 at South Florida	D22 at Villanova	J10 Dartmouth	F27 Harvard	Loyola (Md.)
Towson	D27 at Saint Louis	F12 at Youngstown St.	D3 at Morehead St.	D27-28 Golden Bear Cl.*	J14 at Sacred Heart	F28 Dartmouth	N22-24 Battle of Baltimore
N22-24 Battle of Baltimore	J3 at Wright St.	F14 at Cleveland St.	D6 Ball State	D30 at Washington	J30 Cornell	M5 at Cornell	N29 Towson
N29 at Loyola	J8 at Wis.-Milwaukee	F18 at Wis.-Green Bay	D11 at Miami (Ohio)	J3 Lafayette	J31 Columbia	M6 at Columbia	D2 at Iona
D2 at Georgia	J10 at Wis.-Green Bay	F21 Bracket Buster	D15 Southern Illinois	J6 at Fordham	F6 at Penn	*at Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	D6 at Duquesne
D6 at Norfolk St.	J15 Loyola (Ill.)	F26 Wright St.	D18 at Youngstown St.	J11 FDU-Madison	F7 at Princeton	**at Bridgeport, Conn.	D8 St. Peter's
D10 at George Wash.	J17 Detroit	F28 Butler	D22 at Toledo	J17 at Cornell	F13 Brown	Metro Atlantic	D10 at Delaware
D13 Md.-Balt. County	J21 at Youngstown St.	*at Cincinnati	D28 at Brown	J24 Cornell	F14 Yale	Canisius	D13 at Mount St. Mary's
D20 Virginia Tech	J24 Wright St.	**at Iowa City, Iowa	D30 at Akron	J30 at Dartmouth	F20 at Columbia	N21 at Buffalo	D29 Princeton
D30 at Md.-East Shore	J29 Cleveland St.	Loyola (Ill.)	J3 Butler	J31 at Harvard	F21 at Cornell	N24 Cleveland St.	J3 at Navy
J3 at George Mason	J31 Illinois-Chicago	N21 at DePaul	J5 Wis.-Green Bay	F6 at Yale	F27 at Yale	D1 Bucknell	J5 Central Connecticut
J7 at Hofstra	F4 IP-FL Wayne	N29 Bowling Green	D2 at UMKC	F7 at Brown	F28 at Brown	D3 Niagara	J7 Rider
J10 Delaware	F7 at Loyola (Ill.)	D2 at UMKC	D6 at Valparaiso	F13 Princeton	M5 Princeton	D6 at St. Bonaventure	J9 at Marist
J14 William & Mary	F12 at Cleveland St.	D6 at Valparaiso	D20 Western Michigan	F14 Penn	M6 Penn	D13 at Howard	J13 Siena
J17 at James Madison	F14 at Detroit	D17 at Bradley	D17 at Bradley	F20 Dartmouth	Pennsylvania	D15 at Delaware	J16 Niagara
J19 UNC Wilmington	F19 Wis.-Milwaukee	D23 Central Michigan	D28-29 Shamrock Classic*	F21 Harvard	N21 Wisconsin	D20 Detroit	J18 Canisius
J21 Drexel	F21 Bracket Buster	D28-29 Shamrock Classic*	J3 Youngstown St.	F27 at Princeton	N24 at Drexel	D30 at Syracuse	J23 at Manhattan
J24 Old Dominion	F25 Youngstown St.	J3 Youngstown St.	J5 at Cleveland St.	F28 at Penn	D6 Saint Joseph's	J3 at St. Peter's	J25 at Fairfield
J28 at Va. Commonwealth	F28 Illinois-Chicago	J27 Wis.-Milwaukee	F4 Loyola (Ill.)	M5 Brown	D9 Villanova	J7 Manhattan	J29 Marist
J31 at Old Dominion	Cleveland St.	J31 Cleveland St.	F7 at Wis.-Milwaukee	M6 Yale	D20 at Bucknell	J10 Florida International	J31 at St. Peter's
F4 George Mason	N22 Central St.	F7 at Wis.-Milwaukee	F11 Detroit	*at Berkeley, Calif.	D27-29 ECAC Holiday Fest.**	J13 Iona	F4 Manhattan
F7 at Delaware	N24 at Canisius	J8 at Illinois-Chicago	F14 IP-FL Wayne	Cornell	J16 Lafayette	J16 at Marist	F8 at Rider
F11 at UNC Wilmington	D29 North Carolina	J10 Wis.-Milwaukee	F19 Youngstown St.	N23 Georgia Tech	J10 at Rider	J18 at Loyola (Md.)	F12 at Siena
F14 Va. Commonwealth	N3 at Penn St.	J15 at Butler	F26 at Illinois-Chicago	N25 Colgate	J15 at La Salle	J23 Rider	F19 at Niagara
F18 at William & Mary	D6 Utah Valley St.	J17 Wright St.	F28 at Wis.-Green Bay	N29 Army	J21 Temple	J25 Siena	F21 at Canisius
F21 at Drexel	D13 at Norfolk St.	J22 Wis.-Green Bay	F28 at Wis.-Green Bay	D2 Ithaca	J30 at Yale	J30 at Iona	F25 Fairfield
F25 Hofstra	D16 at Kent State	J26 Illinois-Chicago	Youngstown St.	D5 at Vermont	J31 at Brown	F1 at Manhattan	F29 Iona
F28 James Madison	D20 Akron	J29 at Youngstown St.	N22 at Niagara	D7 at New Hampshire	F6 Harvard	F5 Fairfield	Manhattan
Virginia	D22 at Boston	J31 Detroit	N25 at Toledo	D20 at Bucknell	F7 Dartmouth	F7 Marist	N24 Columbia
Commonwealth	D29-30 Islander Invit.*	F4 at Wright St.	N29 Saint Francis (Pa.)	D29 at St. Francis (N.Y.)	F10 at Princeton	F14 at Fairfield	N29 Fordham
N21 Iona	J3 at Wis.-Green Bay	F7 Butler	D1 at Boston University	D31 at Duquesne	F13 at Columbia	F16 at Rider	D2 Wichita St.
N25 Western Kentucky	J5 Loyola (Ill.)	F12 at Wis.-Milwaukee	D3 Slippery Rock	J3 St. Francis (Pa.)	F14 at Cornell	F19 St. Peter's	D5 at Fairfield
N29 at Hampton	J8 Wright St.	F14 at Wis.-Green Bay	D6 at Buffalo	J6 Lehigh	F20 Brown	F21 Loyola (Md.)	D7 Rider
D3 at Richmond	J10 at Youngstown St.	F18 at Detroit	D13 at Pittsburgh	J9 at New Mexico	F21 Yale	F26 at Siena	D17 at Syracuse
D6 William & Mary	J17 at Illinois-Chicago	F21 Bracket Buster	D18 Wright St.	J17 Columbia	F27 Cornell	F29 at Niagara	D20 Richmond
D15 North Carolina A&T	J22 Wis.-Milwaukee	F26 Cleveland St.	D20 Oakland	J20 at Lafayette	F28 Columbia	Fairfield	D27-29 Holiday Festival*
D18 UAB	J24 Youngstown St.	*at Moraga, Calif.	D22 UMKC	J24 at Columbia	M5 at Dartmouth	N21 at Harvard	D31 Hofstra
D22 at La Salle	J29 at Butler	Wis.-Green Bay	J3 at Loyola (Ill.)	J30 at Harvard	M6 at Harvard	N24 at St. John's	J3 at Siena
D29 at Georgia Tech	J31 at Wright St.	N21 at SE Missouri	J5 at Illinois-Chicago	J31 at Dartmouth	M9 Princeton	D2 Fordham	J7 at Canisius
J5 at Hofstra	F5 Wis.-Green Bay	N29 Western Illinois	D2 at Iowa	F6 at Brown	*at East Lansing, Mich.	D5 Manhattan	J9 at Niagara
J7 Delaware	F7 at Wright St.	D4 Chicago St.	D10 at Wisconsin	F7 at Yale	*at New York	D7 at Yale	J14 St. Peter's
J10 at James Madison	F12 Butler	D10 at Wisconsin	D14 at Western Illinois	F13 Princeton	Princeton	D9 Marist	J18 Fairfield
J14 at UNC Wilmington	F14 Illinois-Chicago	D20 Minnesota-Duluth	D22 at Butler	F14 Pennsylvania	N21 Colgate	D23 George Washington	J23 Loyola
J17 George Mason	F19 Detroit	D29-30 UWGB Classic	J29 Loyola (Ill.)	F20 Dartmouth	N28 Holy Cross	D27-30 Rainbow Classic*	J25 at Iona
J21 at Old Dominion	F21 Bracket Buster	J3 Cleveland St.	J31 IP-FL Wayne	F21 Harvard	D2 at Md.-Baltimore Co.	J3 Michigan	J30 Niagara
J24 at Drexel	F26 at Loyola (Ill.)	J5 at Wright St.	F5 at Detroit	F27 at Pennsylvania	D5-6 McCaffrey Classic*	J6 at Duke	F1 Canisius
J28 Towson	F28 at Wis.-Milwaukee	J8 Youngstown St.	F7 Wis.-Green Bay	F28 at Princeton	D17 at Rutgers	J8 at Elton	F4 at Loyola
J31 Hofstra	*at Corpus Christi, Texas	J10 Butler	F11 Illinois-Chicago	Dartmouth	D22 Lafayette	J11 at St. Peter's	F8 at St. Peter's
F4 Drexel	Detroit	J17 Wis.-Milwaukee	F14 Wis.-Milwaukee	N21 at Stony Brook	D29 at Loyola	J13 at Marist	F13 Iona
F7 UNC Wilmington	N24 Western Michigan	J22 at Loyola	F19 at Wright St.	N28 Hawaii-Hilo*	J3 Oklahoma**	J16 at Iona	F18 at Marist
F11 at George Mason	D6 at Wisconsin	J24 at Illinois-Chicago	F21 Bracket Buster	N29 Quinnipiac*	J7 Monmouth	J18 at Manhattan	F21 Bracket Buster
F14 at Towson	D13 Toledo	J29 Detroit	F25 at Butler	N30 Rider*	J10 at Minnesota	J25 Loyola (Md.)	F26 at Rider
F18 James Madison	D15 Chicago St.	J31 at Wis.-Milwaukee	D28 Detroit	D4 Tufts	J26 Catholic	J29 St. Peter's	F29 Marist
F21 Old Dominion	D18 at Bowling Green			D14 New Hampshire	J30 at Brown	F5 at Canisius	*at New York
F25 at Delaware	D20 at Canisius				J31 at Yale	F7 at Niagara	Marist
F28 at William & Mary							N17-28 Preseason NIT

N22-23 Marist Classic	J6 at Siena	F11 Western Michigan	*at Maui, Hawaii	N24 Ohio Dominican	D30 at Louisville	J19 Texas AM-CC	F21 at Oral Roberts
N30 at Central Michigan	J11 Fairfield	F14 at Northern Illinois	**at Indianapolis	D3 at Dayton	J3 Buffalo	J24 at Western Illinois	F25 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne
D4 Siena	J14 at Manhattan	F16 Miami	Eastern Michigan	D6 at Western Michigan	J7 Central Michigan	J29 at IUPUI	F28 Western Illinois
D9 at Fairfield	J19 Marist	F21 Bracket Buster	N22-23 Marist Classic*	D9 Xavier	J10 at Ball State	J31 at Oakland	*at Cincinnati
D14 at Northeastern	J22 Iona	F24 at Marshall	N25 Concordia	D11 Wright St.	J14 Marshall	F5 Western Illinois	Oral Roberts
D21 Vermont	J24 at Marist	F28 at Bowling Green	N29 at Nebraska	D20-21 Bolemaker Invit.*	J17 Akron	F7 Valparaiso	N21-22 Sooner Invit.*
D23 at Georgia Tech	J29 at Fairfield	M3 Eastern Michigan	D2 Kent State	D28 Cincinnati	J19 at Eastern Michigan	F12 Chattanooga	N24 Chattanooga
D28 Northern Arizona	J31 Loyola	M6 at Central Michigan	D9 Albion	J7 at Buffalo	J22 Bowling Green	F14 IUPUI	N28 Oklahoma Wesleyan
J3 at Holy Cross	F3 Siena	*at Hartford, Conn.	D15-20 Pittsburgh Invit.**	J10 Akron	J25 at Kent State	F19 at Oral Roberts	D1 Northern Arizona
J7 at Iona	F6 at Rider	Bowling Green	D23 Northern Colorado	J14 Kent State	J28 Ball State	F21 at UMKC	D3 at Arkansas
J9 Loyola (Md.)	F8 Manhattan	N21 Urbana	J3 at Bowling Green	J17 Ball State	J31 at Northern Illinois	F28 Centenary	D6 Tulsa
J13 Fairfield	F14 Niagara	N25 Findlay	J7 Navy	J21 at Central Michigan	F7 at Miami	M2 at Valparaiso	D12 at Minnesota
J16 Canisius	F19 at Canisius	N29 at Bradley	J10 at Central Michigan	J24 Eastern Michigan	F11 Northern Illinois	IUPUI	D15 at Loyola (Ill.)
J19 at St. Peter's	F21 at Niagara	D3 at Buffalo	J14 at Northern Illinois	J28 at Marshall	F14 Eastern Michigan	N21 St. Francis (Ind.)	D20 St. Gregory's
J24 St. Peter's	F27 at Iona	D6 Northwestern	J17 Western Michigan	F2 at Ohio	F18 at Western Michigan	N24 Wis.-Green Bay	D30 Wichita St.
J29 at Loyola (Md.)	F29 Rider	D10 at IP-Ft. Wayne	J19 Toledo	F4 Bowling Green	F21 Bracket Buster	N29 Tri-State	J3 at UMKC
J31 at Rider	Siena	D13 at Michigan	J24 at Miami	F7 Toledo	F25 at Bowling Green	D1 at Lipscomb	J5 at Southern Utah
F5 at Niagara	N21 Albany	D18 Detroit	J28 Central Michigan	F11 at Akron	F28 Western Michigan	D3 at Vanderbilt	J8 Western Illinois
F7 at Canisius	N25 Fordham	D27-30 Rainbow Classic*	J31 at Western Michigan	F16 at Ball State	M3 at Central Michigan	D13 at Dayton	J10 Valparaiso
F13 Rider	N29 at Duquesne	J7 at Ball State	F4 at Buffalo	F18 Ohio	Western Michigan	D17 at West Virginia	J15 Centenary
F15 Iona	D2 at Monmouth	J10 Northern Illinois	F8 Akron	F21 Bracket Buster	N21 USC	D20 Ball State	J27 at Chicago St.
F18 Manhattan	D4 at Marist	J14 at Akron	F11 at Marshall	F25 at Northern Illinois	N24 at Detroit	D27-30 Rainbow Classic*	J12 at Oakland
F21 at Siena	D6 Niagara	J18 Central Michigan	F14 at Toledo	F28 Buffalo	D6 Miami	J3 Western Illinois	J24 at IUPUI
F26 Niagara	D10 Toledo	J22 at Toledo	F18 Buffalo	M3 at Kent State	D13 Fordham	J5 at Valparaiso	J31 UMKC
F29 at Manhattan	D20 at Syracuse	J28 Kent State	F21 Bracket Buster	M6 Marshall	D15 UAB*	J10 at Oakland	F5 IUPUI
Niagara	D23 at Delaware	J31 Marshall	F25 Ohio	*at West Lafayette, Ind.	D20 at Loyola	J15 Valparaiso	F12 at Valparaiso
N22 Youngstown St.	D30 at Northern Iowa	F4 at Miami	F28 Northern Illinois	Northern Illinois	D29-30 Hoops Classic**	J17 Southern Utah	F14 at Western Illinois
N29 Bucknell	J3 Manhattan	F7 at Western Michigan	M3 at Ball State	N22 Eastern Illinois	J3 at Akron	J22 at UMKC	F19 Chicago St.
D3 at Canisius	J6 St. Peter's	F11 Ohio	M6 Bowling Green	N24 at Notre Dame	J10 at Buffalo	J24 Oral Roberts	F21 Oakland
D6 at Siena	J13 at Loyola	F14 at Kent State	**at Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	D5-6 Hawkeye Challenge*	J12 Marshall	J29 Chicago St.	F28 at Centenary
D13 Buffalo	J15 at Rider	F18 at Northern Illinois	Kent State	D13 at Marshall	J14 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	J31 at Centenary	F28 Southern Utah
D17 St. Bonaventure	J19 Iona	F21 Bracket Buster	N19-21 BCA Classic*	D15 Cornell	F7 at Oral Roberts	F7 at Southern Utah	*at Norman, Okla.
D20 at Yale	J23 at Niagara	F25 Toledo	N21 Houghton	D19-20 Hawaii Slam Tr.**	J21 at Kent State	F11 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	Southern Utah
D22 Central Florida	J25 at Canisius	F28 Ball State	N25 at IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	D22 at Baylor	J24 Ball State	F14 at Chicago St.	N21 at BYU
D30 at Central Conn. St.	J29 Rider	M1 Western Michigan	N29 at SW Missouri St.	J3 Ohio	J8 Ohio	F19 Oakland	N28 Washington St.
J3 at St. John's	J31 at Fairfield	D2 at Eastern Michigan	D2 at Eastern Michigan	J7 at Akron	J31 Eastern Michigan	F21 Centenary	D2 Weber St.
J5 at American	F3 at St. Peter's	*at Honolulu	D14 Rhode Island	J10 at Bowling Green	F7 Bowling Green	F26 at Western Illinois	D6 at Denver
J9 Manhattan	F7 at Iona	Buffalo	D17 Cleveland St.	J14 Eastern Michigan	F11 at Ball State	F28 UMKC	D13 at Drake
J11 Iona	F12 Loyola	N21 Canisius	D20 at Boston College	J17 at Ohio	F15 at Marshall	M3 at IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	D18 Montana Tech
J16 at Loyola (Md.)	F15 at Manhattan	N25 at Rutgers	D27 St. Bonaventure**	J20 at Ball State	F18 Toledo	*at Honolulu	D22 at Long Beach St.
J18 at Rider	F21 Marist	N29 Penn St.	D30 at Detroit	J25 Buffalo	F21 Bracket Buster	Missouri-K.C.	D20 at Stanford
J23 Siena	F26 Canisius	D3 Bowling Green	J3 Ball State	J31 Toledo	F25 Central Michigan	N17-28 Preseason NIT	D29 at Utah
J25 Rider	F28 Fairfield	D6 Youngstown St.	J6 at Marshall	F4 Kent State	F28 at Toledo	N29 Norfolk St.	J2 Denver
F30 at Manhattan	Mid-American	D9 at Colgate	J10 Ohio	F9 at Central Michigan	M1 at Bowling Green	D2 Loyola (Ill.)	J5 Oral Roberts
F1 at Iona	Akron	D13 at Niagara	J14 at Miami	F11 at Toledo	M6 Northern Illinois	D4 Texas-Pan American	J8 Centenary
F5 Marist	N17 College of Wooster	D17 Robert Morris	J21 Western Michigan	F14 Ball State	*at Mobile, Ala.	D6 at SE Missouri St.	J10 Chicago St.
F7 Fairfield	N22 at Cincinnati	D22 at Fairleigh Dickinson	J25 Toledo	F18 Bowling Green	**at Tempe, Ariz.	D10 Denver	J15 at Oakland
F14 at St. Peter's	N29 at Radford	J3 at Toledo	J28 at Bowling Green	F21 Bracket Buster	Mid-Centennial	D13 at Monmouth	J17 at IUPUI
F16 at Fairfield	D1 at Hampton	J7 Miami	J31 Akron	F25 Miami	Centenary	D17 SW Missouri St.	J22 at Western Illinois
F19 Loyola (Md.)	D6 James Madison	J10 Western Michigan	F4 at Northern Illinois	F28 at Eastern Michigan	N22 Belhaven College	D22 at Youngstown St.	J24 at Valparaiso
F21 St. Peter's	D14 at North Carolina	J14 at Ohio	F7 at Central Michigan	M1 Central Michigan	N25 at Mississippi	D30 Kansas St.	J29 UMKC
F26 at Marist	D17 Duquesne	J27 at Marshall	F11 Bowling Green	M6 at Western Michigan	N29 at Texas	J3 Oral Roberts	F5 Oakland
F29 Canisius	D20 at Cleveland St.	J28 Akron	F14 Bowling Green	**at Iowa City, Iowa	D2 Northwestern St.	J5 at Chicago St.	F7 IUPUI
Rider	D30 Wright St.	F1 at Ball State	F18 Marshall	Ohio	D6 McNeese St.	J8 Valparaiso	F12 at Chicago St.
N21 Brown	J3 Western Michigan	F25 at Buffalo	F21 Bracket Buster	N15-17 BCA Classic*	D11 Stephen F. Austin	J10 Centenary	F14 at Centenary
N28 Quinnipiac*	J7 Northern Illinois	F29 at Akron	F25 at Buffalo	N30 Toledo	D13 Arkansas Baptist	J15 Western Illinois	F19 Western Illinois
N29 Hawaii-Hilo*	J10 at Miami	F14 Central Michigan	M6 at Ohio	D3 Boston University	D20 at Stephen F. Austin	J19 at UT-Pan American	F21 Valparaiso
N30 Dartmouth*	J14 Bowling Green	F18 at Eastern Michigan	*at Lexington, Ky.	D6 Brown	D27 Chicago St.	J24 at Oakland	F26 at UMKC
D5 Iona	J17 at Toledo	F21 Bracket Buster	**at Cleveland	D9 DePaul	D30 at McNeese St.	J29 at Southern Utah	F28 at Oral Roberts
D7 at Manhattan	J20 Ohio	F25 Kent State	Marshall	D13 at San Francisco	J3 LSU	J31 at Oral Roberts	Valparaiso
D13 Delaware	J24 Central Michigan	F28 at Miami	N21 UNC Wilmington	D20 at Navy	J8 at Southern Utah	F7 Oakland	N21-22 Blue & Gold Cl.*
D17 at Drexel	J28 at Buffalo	M3 Ohio	N29 Morehead St.	D27 Wisconsin**	J10 at UMKC	F12 at Western Illinois	N25 South Florida
D22 at Harvard	J31 at Kent State	M6 at Akron	D4 at Radford	J3 at Northern Illinois	J15 at Oral Roberts	F14 at Valparaiso	D2 Cincinnati
D28 at Monmouth	F2 Marshall	Central Michigan	D6 at Illinois St.	J7 at Duquesne	J17 Oakland	F19 at Centenary	D5 Loyola (Ill.)
D30 at Fairleigh Dickinson	F4 at Ball State	N24-26 Maui Invitational*	N30 Marist	J10 at Kent State	J22 at Valparaiso	F21 Chicago St.	D8 Indiana St.
J7 at Loyola	F8 at Eastern Michigan	D6 at Notre Dame	D3 Bradley	J14 Buffalo	J29 at Western Illinois	F26 Southern Utah	D10 Wis.-Milwaukee
J10 Pennsylvania	F11 Miami	D13 Purdue**	D20 at Massachusetts	J17 Northern Illinois	J31 IUPUI	F28 at IUPUI	D28-30 Fiesta Bowl Cl.**
J15 Siena	F14 at Ohio	D20 at Michigan	D30 at UAB	J20 at Akron	J5 Valparaiso	Oakland	J3 at Oakland
J18 Niagara	F18 at Central Michigan	D23 at Loyola (Ill.)	D13 at Central Michigan	J28 at Western Michigan	J7 Western Illinois	N15-17 BCA Classic*	J5 IUPUI
J23 at Canisius	F21 Bracket Buster	D30 Tri-State	J6 Kent State	J31 Central Michigan	J12 at Oakland	N21 at Michigan	J8 at UMKC
J25 at Niagara	F29 Kent State	J3 Marshall	J12 at Western Michigan	F2 Miami	J14 Southern Utah	N24 at Cincinnati	J10 at Oral Roberts
J29 at Siena	M6 Buffalo	J7 at Toledo	J14 at Toledo	F7 Ball State	J19 UMKC	N29 Missouri	J15 at IUPUI
J31 Marist	D25 Xavier	J10 Eastern Michigan	J20 West Virginia	F11 at Bowling Green	J21 at IUPUI	D3 at Detroit	J17 Western Illinois
F6 St. Peter's	D10 Anderson	J14 at Ball State	J24 Ohio	F14 Akron	J26 Oral Roberts	D6 Texas A&M	J22 Centenary
F8 Loyola	D13 at Indiana St.	J21 Miami	J31 at Bowling Green	F18 at Miami	J28 at Chicago St.	D14 Northern Michigan	J24 Southern Utah
F11 Fairfield	D20 at IUPUI	J24 at Akron	F7 at Buffalo	F21 Bracket Buster	N21 at Northern Iowa	D16 Saginaw Valley St.	J29 Oakland
F13 at Marist	D23 Western Kentucky	J28 at Eastern Michigan	F11 Eastern Michigan	F25 at Eastern Michigan	N25 Northwestern	D20 at Youngstown St.	J31 at Western Illinois
F16 Canisius	D28 Connecticut*	J31 at Ohio	F15 Western Michigan	F29 Marshall	N29 North Central Coll.	F7 at Centenary	F5 at Chicago St.
F22 at Fairfield	J3 at Kent State	F4 Western Michigan	F18 at Kent State	M6 Kent State	D4 at Wis.-Green Bay	J8 at Centenary	F12 Oral Roberts
F24 at Iona	J7 Bowling Green	F7 Kent State	F21 Bracket Buster	*at Cincinnati	D6 at Purdue	J10 IUPUI	F21 at Southern Utah
F26 Manhattan	J10 Toledo	F9 Northern Illinois	F24 Ball State	*at Cleveland	D13 Murray St.	J15 Southern Utah	F26 at Duke
F29 at St. Peter's	J14 Central Michigan	F14 at Buffalo	F29 at Ohio	Toledo	D15 at Detroit	J17 at Centenary	F28 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne
*at Hilo, Hawaii	J17 at Miami	F18 Akron	M3 Akron	N21 at IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	D15-20 Pittsburgh Invit.	J22 Oral Roberts	*at Milwaukee
SL Peter's	J20 Northern Illinois	F21 Bracket Buster	M6 at Miami	N25 Youngstown St.	D23 at Houston	J24 UMKC	**at Tucson, Ariz.
N24 at Lafayette	J24 at Western Michigan	F25 at Western Michigan	*at Cincinnati	N30 at Ohio	D27 at Centenary	J29 at Valparaiso	Western Illinois
N29 Monmouth	J28 at Fairfield	M1 at Northern Illinois	Miami (Ohio)	D3 at Arkansas St.	J3 DePaul	J31 Chicago St.	N17-25 Guardians Classic*
D3 at St. Francis (N.Y.)	F1 Buffalo	M3 Toledo	N21 at Liberty	D10 at Siena	J5 UMKC	N22 at Illinois	N22 at Illinois
D8 at Loyola	F4 Akron	M6 Ball State		D13 at Detroit	J8 Oakland	N26 at UNLV	
D11 Yale	F7 at Ohio			D20 at DePaul	J10 at Southern Utah	N29 Wis.-Green Bay	
D13 at Seton Hall				D22 Wright St.	J17 Oral Roberts	D2 Drake	

SCHEDULES

D6 at Minnesota	J14 at Howard	F14 at Morgan St.	N29 at Saint Louis	F1 at Evansville	J18 at Illinois State	F23 Monmouth
D14 Wis.-Green Bay	J17 at Florida A&M	F16 at Coppin St.	D10 at East Carolina	F4 Northern Iowa	J21 Bradley	F28 Long Island
D17 Norfolk St.	J19 at Beth.-Cookman	F21 Bethune-Cookman	D15 at Va. Commonwealth	F7 Southern Illinois	J25 at Drake	M1 at St. Francis (NY)
D20 Eastern Illinois	J24 Hampton	F23 Florida A&M	D22 at Miami	F11 Bradley	J28 Evansville	Long Island
D22 at Detroit	J26 Norfolk St.	F28 at Hampton	D27 at High Point	F14 at Drake	J31 at Indiana State	N21 at Lehigh
J3 at IUPUI	J31 North Carolina A&T	M1 at Norfolk St.	D30 at Wake Forest	F18 Indiana St.	F3 at Southern Illinois	D29 Hartford
J5 Oakland	F2 at South Carolina St.	M4 at Delaware St.	J3 at Norfolk St.	F21 Bracket Buster	F7 Illinois State	N3 Delaware
J8 at Oral Roberts	F7 Md.-Eastern Shore	*at Miami	J5 at Hampton	F24 at Southern Illinois	F11 at Northern Iowa	D5 at Binghamton
J15 at UMKC	F14 at Coppin St.	Md.-Eastern Shore	J8 S. Carolina St.	F28 at SW Missouri St.	F14 Southern Illinois	D10 Albany
J17 at Valparaiso	F16 at Morgan St.	N3 at Auburn	J10 Md.-Eastern Shore	M1 Wichita St.	F17 Drake	D13 at Fair Dickinson
J22 Southern Utah	F21 Florida A&M	D9 at Illinois	J17 at Coppin St.	Drake	F21 Bracket Buster	D20 at Rutgers
J24 Chicago St.	F23 Bethune-Cookman	D21 at Robert Morris	J19 at Morgan St.	N21 Simpson	F25 at Wichita State	D29-30 Col. of Charleston C.*
J29 Centenary	F28 at Norfolk St.	D27 Portland St.	J24 Florida A&M	N25 at Iowa	F28 Creighton	J6 at Texas A&M
J31 Valparaiso	M1 at Hampton	D30 Towson	J26 Bethune-Cookman	N29 Colorado St.	M1 at Bradley	J10 at Robert Morris
F2 St. Ambrose	M4 Howard	J3 Delaware St.	J31 at Delaware St.	D2 at Western Illinois	Wichita St.	J12 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F5 at Chicago St.	Florida A&M	J5 Howard	F2 Howard	D13 Southern Utah	N21 La Salle*	J17 Central Conn. State
F7 at Centenary	N19-21 BCA Classic*	J7 at Maryland	F7 Norfolk St.	D20 Iowa St.	N23 Hampton*	J19 Quinnipiac
F12 UMKC	N23 at Illinois St.	J10 at N. Carolina A&T	F9 Hampton	D29 at Texas A&M-CC	N29 Northern Arizona	J24 at Sacred Heart
F14 Oral Roberts	N28 at N.C. State	J12 at S. Carolina St.	F14 at Md.-East. Shore	D30 TBA	D2 at Manhattan	J26 Wagner
F19 at Southern Utah	D2 at Florida	J14 at Elion	F21 Coppin St.	J3 at Wichita St.	D6 Rockhurst	J31 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F26 IUPUI	D5 at Georgia	J17 at Norfolk St.	F23 Morgan St.	J8 Bradley	D10 at Kansas St.	F5 at Mount St. Mary's
F28 at Oakland	D13 at Alabama St.	J19 at Hampton	F28 at Florida A&M	J11 at Creighton	F14 at Illinois St.	F12 at Wagner
Mid-Eastern	D17 Wofford	J24 Coppin St.	M1 at Beth.-Cookman	J14 Illinois St.	F18 at Creighton	F14 Sacred Heart
Bethune-Cookman	D20 Southern	J26 Morgan St.	M6 at S. Carolina St.	J17 at Northern Iowa	F21 Bracket Buster	F17 St. Francis (N.Y.)
N24 Maine	D31 at Virginia	J29 at Savannah St.	*at Atlanta	J22 at Indiana St.	F25 Bradley	F19 Monmouth
D3 at Creighton	J3 at Coppin St.	J31 at Florida A&M	South Carolina St.	J25 SW Missouri St.	F28 Northern Iowa	F21 Fairleigh Dickinson
D15 at Houston	J5 at Morgan St.	F2 Bethune-Cookman	N21-22 Sooner Invitational*	D28 at Bradley	M1 at Evansville	F26 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
D20 at Nebraska	J10 Hampton	F7 at Delaware St.	D6 at Florida St.	J31 Wichita St.	*at East Lansing, Mich.	F28 at Monmouth
D22 at Kansas St.	J12 Norfolk St.	F9 at Howard	D9 The Citadel	F4 Indiana St.	Northern Iowa	M1 at Quinnipiac
D29-30 Furman Classic*	J17 Delaware St.	F12 Savannah St.	D20 at Clemson	F7 at Evansville	N25 Butler	*at Charleston, S.C.
J3 at Morgan St.	J24 at N. Carolina A&T	F16 South Carolina St.	D22 at Univ. of the South	F11 at Southern Illinois	N30 at Iowa St.	Monmouth
J5 at Coppin St.	J26 at S. Carolina St.	F21 Norfolk St.	D29 at Chattanooga	F14 Creighton	D2 Louisiana Tech	N21 Appalachian State*
J10 Norfolk St.	J31 Md.-Eastern Shore	F23 Hampton	J5 at Norfolk St.	F17 at SW Missouri St.	D6 Furman	N23 Boston College*
J12 Hampton	F7 Coppin St.	F28 Coppin St.	J8 North Carolina A&T	F21 Bracket Buster	D9 Iowa	D29 at St. Peter's
J14 Savannah St.	F9 Morgan St.	M1 at Morgan St.	J12 Md.-Eastern Shore	F25 Northern Iowa	D13 Minn.-Crookston	D2 at Siena
J17 Howard	F14 at Hampton	N22 at Seton Hall	J19 at Morgan St.	F28 Evansville	D20 at Illinois St.	D6 at Rutgers
J19 Delaware St.	F16 at Norfolk St.	N25 Fairleigh Dickinson	J24 at Md.-East. Shore	M1 at Illinois St.	D30 Siena	D10 Hofstra
J24 at South Carolina St.	F21 at Delaware St.	D1 at Virginia Tech	F2 Delaware St.	Evansville	J3 Evansville	F14 Evansville
J26 at N. Carolina A&T	F23 at Howard	D10 at Coppin St.	F7 Hampton	N21 TBA	J8 at Wichita St.	F18 at Northern Iowa
F2 at UM-Eastern Shore	F28 North Carolina A&T	D13 at Old Dominion	F9 Norfolk St.	D25 at Illinois-Chicago	J11 at SW Missouri St.	F21 Bracket Buster
F7 Morgan St.	M1 South Carolina St.	D20 at Maine	F21 Coppin St.	D6 at Austin Peay	J14 Creighton	F25 SW Missouri St.
F9 Coppin St.	M4 at Beth.-Cookman	D29 Montana St. Tour.*	F28 at Beth.-Cookman	D6 at Butler	J17 Drake	F28 Illinois St.
F14 at Norfolk St.	Hampton	J3 Bethune-Cookman	M1 at Florida A&M	D13 Eastern Illinois	J21 at Evansville	M1 at Creighton
F16 at Hampton	N22 La Salle*	J5 Florida A&M	M6 at North Carolina	D17 Mississippi	J24 Bradley	*at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
F18 at Savannah St.	N23 Wichita St.*	J10 at Howard	Missouri Valley	D20 at Western Kentucky	J28 Illinois St.	Northeast
F21 at Howard	N29 Va. Commonwealth	J12 at Delaware St.	Bradley	D27 at Purdue	J31 at Southern Illinois	Cent. Conn. St.
F23 at Delaware St.	D1 Akron	J17 S. Carolina St.	N13 SIU Edwardsville	D31 at Indiana St.	F4 at Creighton	N29-30 Central Conn. To.
F28 South Carolina St.	D3 at Davidson	J20 North Carolina A&T	N21-26 Las Vegas Tour.	J7 at Northern Iowa	F7 Indiana St.	D6 Quinnipiac
M1 N. Carolina A&T	D5-6 Winthrop Tour.	J26 at Md.-East. Shore	N29 Bowling Green	J3 Southwest Missouri	F18 Wichita St.	D9 Massachusetts
M5 Florida A&M	D9 Norfolk St.	J31 at Norfolk St.	D3 at Central Michigan	J11 Bradley	F21 Bracket Buster	D21 at Providence
*at Greenville, S.C.	D19 at William & Mary	F2 Hampton	D7 at DePaul	J14 at Southern Illinois	F25 at Drake	D30 Niagara
Coppin St.	D23 at East Carolina	F7 at Beth.-Cookman	D10 Butler	J17 at Creighton	F28 at Indiana St.	J5 at Loyola (Md.)
N15-17 BCA Classic*	D29 at Richmond	F9 at Florida A&M	D17 Loyola-Chicago	J21 Northern Iowa	M1 Southern Illinois	J9 at Brown
N22-24 Battle of Baltimore	J3 South Carolina St.	F14 Howard	D20 at Pepperdine	J24 Wichita St.	N22 at Wyoming	J12 Mount St. Mary's
N29 at Cincinnati	J5 North Carolina A&T	F16 Delaware St.	D28 at UNLV	J28 at SW Missouri St.	N26 Jacksonville St.	J17 St. Francis (N.Y.)
D2 at Missouri	J10 at Florida A&M	F23 at N. Carolina A&T	J3 Indiana St.	F1 Creighton	N29 at Wis.-Milwaukee	J19 at Long Island
D5-6 SW Missouri Cl.**	J12 at Bethune-Cookman	M1 Md.-Eastern Shore	J5 Creighton	F4 at Bradley	D3 SE Missouri St.	J22 Wagner
D10 Morgan St.	J19 Md.-Eastern Shore	M5 Coppin St.	J8 at Drake	F7 Drake	D6 at Drake	J24 Fairleigh Dickinson
D20 at New Mexico	J24 at Delaware St.	*at Bozeman, Mont.	J11 at SIU Edwardsville	F18 Southern Illinois	D15 at Wright St.	J26 at Sacred Heart
D30 at Michigan St.	J26 at Howard	Norfolk St.	J14 Wichita St.	F21 Bracket Buster	D17 at Murray St.	J31 at Monmouth
J3 Florida A&M	J31 Coppin St.	N23 Western Illinois	J17 Southern Illinois	F25 at Illinois St.	D28 Illinois St.	F2 at Mount St. Mary's
J5 Bethune-Cookman	F2 at Morgan St.	D6 UMKC	J21 at SW Missouri St.	F28 at Drake	J2 Charlotte	F5 Monmouth
J10 at Delaware St.	F7 at South Carolina St.	D3 at Pittsburgh	J24 at Northern Iowa	M1 Indiana St.	J7 at Indiana St.	F7 at Fairleigh Dickinson
J12 at Howard	F9 at North Carolina A&T	D14 at Hampton	J28 Drake	N23 Florida A&M	J11 Wichita St.	F12 St. Francis (Pa.)
J17 North Carolina A&T	F14 Florida A&M	D17 at Towson	J31 at Illinois St.	N26 at Northern Illinois	J14 Evansville	F14 Robert Morris
J19 South Carolina St.	F23 at Md.-Eastern Shore	D16 at Georgetown	F4 Evansville	N29 at Utah St.	J17 Bradley	F17 at Quinnipiac
J24 Md.-Eastern Shore	F28 Howard	D21 UNC Greensboro	F8 at Wichita St.	D2 Bellarmine	J21 at Illinois St.	F19 at Wagner
J31 Hampton	M1 Delaware St.	D28-29 Richmond Tour.*	F11 at Creighton	D6 Marshall	J25 Indiana St.	F21 Sacred Heart
F2 Norfolk St.	M6 at Norfolk St.	J6 at Md.-East. Shore	F14 Northern Iowa	D14 at Illinois-Chicago	J28 at Wichita St.	F26 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F7 at Florida A&M	*at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands	J11 Coppin St.	F18 Illinois St.	D16 Western Kentucky	J31 Northern Iowa	F28 at Robert Morris
F9 at Beth.-Cookman	Howard	J13 Morgan St.	F21 Bracket Buster	D20 Northern Illinois	F3 SW Missouri St.	F12 St. Francis (N.Y.)
F14 Delaware St.	N21-23 Florida Int'l Tour.*	J18 Bethune-Cookman	F25 at Indiana St.	D28 at Southern Illinois	F7 at Creighton	D13 Long Island
F16 Howard	N28 at N.C. State	J20 Florida A&M	M1 SW Missouri St.	J3 at Illinois	F11 Drake	D20 at St. Peter's
F21 at N. Carolina A&T	D3 St. Francis (Pa.)	J25 at S. Carolina St.	Creighton	J7 Creighton	F14 at SW Missouri St.	D22 Buffalo
F23 at S. Carolina St.	D6 Radford	J27 at N. Carolina A&T	N22 San Diego	J10 at Indiana St.	F18 at Evansville	D30 Rider
F28 Md.-Eastern Shore	D8 American	F3 at Delaware St.	D3 Bonaventure	J14 at Drake	F21 Bracket Buster	J4 at Army
M5 at Morgan St.	D13 Canisius	F10 Md.-Eastern Shore	D6 Bethune-Cookman	J18 Southwest Missouri	F24 Creighton	J10 at Sacred Heart
*at Cincinnati	D20 at Georgetown	F15 at Coppin St.	D10 Nebraska	J21 Southern Illinois	F28 Bradley	J12 at Wagner
*at Springfield, Mo.	D30 at West Virginia	J5 at Md.-East. Shore	D13 at Fresno St.	J24 at Creighton	M1 at Northern Iowa	J17 Robert Morris
Delaware St.	J5 at Md.-East. Shore	F22 at Beth.-Cookman	D30 Arkansas-Little Rock	J28 at Northern Illinois	Southwest Mo. St.	J19 St. Francis (Pa.)
N21 at UNLV	J10 Morgan St.	F24 at Florida A&M	D30 SW Missouri St.	J31 Bradley	N17-25 Guardians Classic	J22 St. Francis (NY)
N29 at Georgetown	J12 Coppin St.	M1 South Carolina St.	J5 at Bradley	F7 at SW Missouri St.	D5-6 SW Missouri Tour.	J24 at Central Conn. St.
D2 at Wagner	J14 Delaware St.	M3 North Carolina A&T	J7 at Illinois St.	F11 at Evansville	D9 at San Diego	J26 at Quinnipiac
D6 at Creighton	J19 at Florida A&M	M8 Hampton	J11 Drake	F14 Indiana St.	D13 Wichita State	J31 at Mount St. Mary's
D8 at Nebraska	J24 Norfolk St.	*at Richmond, Va.	J14 at Northern Iowa	F18 at Bradley	D30 at Creighton	F2 at Monmouth
D15 at Canisius	J26 Hampton	N. Carolina A&T	J17 Evansville	F21 Bracket Buster	J3 San Diego	F5 Quinnipiac
D22 at Michigan	J31 South Carolina St.	N22 Alabama St.*	J21 at Wichita St.	F25 Evansville	J7 at Evansville	F7 Central Conn. St.
D28 Murray St.	F2 at N. Carolina A&T	N24 at Charlotte	J24 Illinois St.	F28 at Wichita St.	J11 Northern Iowa	F14 Mount St. Mary's
D30 at Charlotte	F9 Md.-Eastern Shore	N26 Radford	J28 at Indiana St.	M1 Drake	J15 Indiana State	F19 at St. Francis (Pa.)
J3 at Md.-East. Shore						F21 at Long Island
J10 Coppin St.						
J12 Morgan St.						

D8 at Drexel	J17 at Central Conn. St.	Eastern Illinois	D28 at Notre Dame	F14 at Tennessee St.	N25 Mount St. Mary's	J17 at Army	F27 at Colgate
D13 at Central Conn.	J22 at Fairleigh Dickinson	N22 at Northern Illinois	D30 at Xavier	F19 Eastern Kentucky	N29 at Fairleigh Dickinson	J19 Dartmouth	F29 at Holy Cross
TBA Connecticut	J24 at Wagner	N25 at Wisconsin	J3 Greenville	F21 Morehead St.	D2 at Radford	J23 American	Navy
D23 at Notre Dame	J29 Sacred Heart	D2 Illinois-Chicago	J8 Murray St.	F26 at Murray St.	D4 at Elon	J25 Navy	N21 at South Carolina
D30 Northern Arizona	J31 Robert Morris	D6 Indiana St.	J10 Tennessee-Martin	F28 at Tennessee-Martin	D6 UNC Greensboro	J30 at Bucknell	N24 Belmont
J10 Mt. St. Mary's	F2 St. Francis (Pa.)	D10 St. Francis	J15 Tennessee Tech	*at Missoula, Mont.	D8 at Howard	F1 at Lehigh	N28 Air Force
J3 at St. Francis (N.Y.)	F7 at Mount St. Mary's	D13 at Evansville	J17 Austin Peay	Tennessee-Martin	D18 at St. Francis (Pa.)	F6 Lafayette	N30 at James Madison
J19 at Long Island	F14 Wagner	D20 at Western Illinois	J22 at Samford	N17-25 Guardians Cl.*	D21 at Notre Dame	F11 at Holy Cross	D6 at Central Florida
J24 Monmouth	F19 at Sacred Heart	D23 at Ohio St.	J24 at Jacksonville St.	N22 at Mississippi St.	D27-30 Rainbow Classic*	F14 Army	D13 Gettysburg
J26 Fairleigh Dickinson	F21 at Long Island	D30 at Iowa	J29 Tennessee-Martin	N24 Central Baptist	J3 Yale	F20 at Navy	D18 Washington College
J31 at Wagner	M1 Fairleigh Dickinson	J3 Illinois College	J31 at Murray St.	N29 at Vanderbilt	J5 Niagara	F22 at American	D20 Ohio
F2 Sacred Heart	St. Francis (Pa.)	F3 Tennessee Tech	J3 Eastern Kentucky	D6 at Mississippi Valley	J10 Bucknell	F27 Lehigh	D22 at Rice
F5 at Fair, Dickinson	N22 at Pittsburgh	F7 Tennessee St.	F7 Tennessee St.	D13 Rochester	J14 at Navy	F29 Bucknell	D27 Mount St. Mary's
F7 at Monmouth	N26 at Penn State	J13 Southeast Missouri	F12 Jacksonville St.	D20 Mississippi Valley	J17 Lehigh	Holy Cross	D31 SMU
F12 Robert Morris	N29 at Youngstown State	J17 Tennessee St.	F14 Samford	D22 at Indiana St.	J23 at Colgate	N22 Boston University	J3 Loyola (Md.)
F14 St. Francis (Pa.)	D3 at Howard	J22 at Austin Peay	F19 at Eastern Illinois	D30 at Central Florida	J25 at Holy Cross	N25 Harvard	J7 at Eastern Michigan
F17 Central Connecticut	D6 Bucknell	F21 at SE Missouri	F24 at Eastern Kentucky	J2 Portland St.	J30 Lafayette	N28 at Princeton	J10 at Lehigh
F19 at Sacred Heart	D13 at Robert Morris	F28 at Tennessee Tech	F28 at Tennessee Tech	J8 at Eastern Kentucky	F1 Army	D2 at Boston College	J14 American
F21 Wagner	D18 American	*at Lexington, Ky.	Murray St.	J10 at Morehead St.	F7 at Bucknell	D7 at Louisville	J17 at Bucknell
F26 at Robert Morris	D21 at VMI	F7 Tennessee-Martin	N22 West Florida	J15 Jacksonville St.	F10 Navy	D10 Fordham	J23 at Holy Cross
F28 at St. Francis (Pa.)	J3 at Cornell	F10 at SE Missouri	N26 SIU Edwardsville	J20 at Murray St.	F13 at Lehigh	J21 Brown	J25 at Colgate
M1 Long Island	J6 at Nebraska	F12 at Tennessee St.	N29 Southern Mississippi	J22 at Tennessee St.	F20 Holy Cross	D27-29 ECAC Holiday Fest.*	J30 Army
*at Hilo, Hawaii	J10 Long Island	F16 Florida Gulf Coast	D3 at Xavier	J29 Morehead St.	F22 Colgate	D31 at Iona	F1 Lafayette
Robert Morris	J12 Monmouth	F19 Morehead St.	D7 at Western Kentucky	F31 Eastern Kentucky	F26 at Army	J3 Marist	F7 Lehigh
N21 at St. Bonaventure	J17 Monmouth	F21 Eastern Kentucky	D17 Southern Illinois	F7 at Eastern Illinois	F28 at Lafayette	J6 at Dartmouth	F10 at American
N26 at Pittsburgh	J19 at Fair, Dickinson	F26 at Tennessee-Martin	D28 at Delaware St.	F12 at Austin Peay	*at Honolulu	J10 at Army	F14 Bucknell
D2 Carnegie Mellon	J24 Mount St. Mary's	F28 at Murray St.	J3 at Louisville	F14 at Tennessee Tech	Army	J14 at Colgate	F20 Colgate
D6 at Birmingham So.	J31 at Long Island	Eastern Kentucky	J8 at Morehead St.	F17 Murray St.	N21 Columbia	J17 Lafayette	F22 Holy Cross
D13 St. Francis (Pa.)	F2 at St. Francis (N.Y.)	N21 at Saint Louis	J10 at Eastern Kentucky	F21 Tennessee St.	N23 Coast Guard	J23 Navy	F26 at Lafayette
D17 at Buffalo	F5 Wagner	N25 Ohio Wesleyan	J15 Samford	F26 Eastern Illinois	N25 Sacred Heart	J25 American	F28 at Army
D21 Md.-Eastern Shore	F7 Sacred Heart	N29 at Alabama A&M	J17 Jacksonville St.	F28 Southeast Missouri	D2 New York Maritime	J30 at Lehigh	Southern
D28 at Duquesne	F12 at Central Conn.	D2 at Winthrop	J20 Tennessee-Martin	*at Springfield, Mo.	D5 at Albany	F1 at Bucknell	Appalachian St.
J3 at Eastern Kentucky	F14 at Quinnipiac	D6 Centre (Ky.)	J24 at Tennessee St.	Tennessee St.	D6 at Connecticut	F7 Army	N21 Monmouth*
J7 Bucknell	F17 Robert Morris	D8 at Savannah St.	J26 at Texas A&M-CC	N25 Trevecca Nazarene	D11 Stony Brook	F11 Colgate	N22 Boston College*
J10 Long Island	F19 Fairleigh Dickinson	D20 Savannah St.	J29 Eastern Kentucky	N28 at Tennessee	D30 New Hampshire	F14 at Lafayette	N28-29 Auerbach Class.**
J12 St. Francis (N.Y.)	F21 at Mount St. Mary's	D23 at Kentucky	J31 Morehead St.	D1 Chattanooga	J2 at The Citadel	F20 at American	D1 at The Citadel
J17 at Fair, Dickinson	F26 Central Connecticut	D27 at Florida	F5 at Eastern Illinois	D4 Fisk	J4 Fairleigh Dickinson	F22 at Navy	D3 George Washington
J19 at Monmouth	F28 Quinnipiac	D30 Alabama A&M	F7 at SE Missouri	D6 at Georgia Tech	J6 St. Francis (N.Y.)	F27 Bucknell	D8 Piedmont College
J22 Mount St. Mary's	M1 at Wagner	J3 Robert Morris	F12 at Tennessee Tech	D10 at Vanderbilt	J10 Holy Cross	F29 Lehigh	D13 at Charlotte
J29 Monmouth	Wagner	J8 Tennessee-Martin	F14 at Austin Peay	D12 at Alabama A&M	J14 at Lafayette	*at New York City	D18 at SMU
J31 at St. Francis (N.Y.)	N24 at Brown	J15 Austin Peay	F17 at Tennessee-Martin	D17 at Wyoming	J23 Bucknell	Lafayette	D20 at Tennessee Tech
F2 at Long Island	D2 Delaware State	J17 Tennessee Tech	F19 Tennessee St.	D19 at Colorado	J25 Lehigh	N22 at Rutgers	D22 at Vanderbilt
F5 Sacred Heart	D6 at Dayton	J22 at Jacksonville St.	F23 Texas A&M-CC	D22 at Chattanooga	J30 at Navy	N24 St. Peter's	D30 James Madison
F7 Wagner	D15 Georgia Southern	J29 at Murray St.	F26 Southeast Missouri	D22 at Chattanooga	F1 at American	N29 La Salle	J2 at South Carolina
F12 at Quinnipiac	D15-20 Pittsburgh Invit.	J31 at Tennessee-Martin	F28 Eastern Illinois	D22 at Chattanooga	F26 American	D2 at Drexel	J5 Elon
F14 at Central Conn. St.	D30 at Albany	F14 Jacksonville St.	N23 at Purdue	D22 at Chattanooga	F28 Navy	D5 Centenary	D7 Wofford
F17 at St. Francis (Pa.)	J2 at Lehigh	F19 at Morehead St.	N25 Bryan College	D22 at Chattanooga	F11 Lafayette	D7 Binghamton	J12 at Chattanooga
F19 at Mount St. Mary's	J7 at Sacred Heart	F9 Tennessee St.	D5-6 Winthrop Tour.*	D22 at Chattanooga	F20 at Colgate	D17 Locomot	N17 UNC Greensboro
F26 Quinnipiac	J10 Monmouth	F12 Samford	D13 at Ohio St.	D22 at Chattanooga	F22 at Lehigh	D20 at Princeton	N24 Tenn. St.
F28 Central Conn. St.	J12 Fairleigh Dickinson	F14 Jacksonville St.	D30 at Oklahoma St.	D22 at Chattanooga	F26 American	D28 at Elton	N26 at Elton
M1 at Sacred Heart	J19 at Mount St. Mary's	F19 at SE Missouri St.	J3 Tenn.-Wesleyan	D22 at Chattanooga	F28 Navy	D30 at CS Northridge	N31 at Furman
Sacred Heart	J22 at Central Conn.	F21 at Eastern Illinois	J6 Jacksonville St.	D22 at Chattanooga	Bucknell	J3 at Columbia	F2 Georgia Southern
N22 Connecticut	J24 St. Francis (N.Y.)	F24 Morehead St.	J10 at Tennessee St.	D22 at Chattanooga	N21 at Michigan St.	J6 Cornell	F7 at East Tenn. St.
N25 at Army	F2 Quinnipiac	F28 at Austin Peay	J15 at Murray St.	D22 at Chattanooga	N25 Yale	J10 Colgate	F9 at Coll. of Charleston
N29 Lehigh	F5 at St. Francis (Pa.)	Jacksonville St.	J17 at Tennessee-Martin	D22 at Chattanooga	N29 Cornell	J14 Army	F14 Western Carolina
D2 Columbia	F7 at Robert Morris	N21 Alabama A&M	J22 Morehead St.	D22 at Chattanooga	D2 at Canisius	J17 at Holy Cross	F16 at UNC Greensboro
D4 at Yale	F12 Long Island	N24 Shorter College	J24 Eastern Kentucky	D22 at Chattanooga	D6 at St. Francis (Pa.)	J20 at Penn	F21 Chattanooga
D14 at Boston College	F14 at Fairleigh Dickinson	N26 at Southern Illinois	J29 Eastern Illinois	D22 at Chattanooga	D20 at Penn St.	J30 at Navy	D24 Davidson
D20 at Albany	J7 Wagner	N29 at Miss. Valley St.	J31 SE Missouri St.	D22 at Chattanooga	D22 Ursinus	F1 at American	F28 at Western Carolina
D29 at Marquette	J10 Fairleigh Dickinson	D1 Jackson St.	F5 at Tennessee Tech	D22 at Chattanooga	D29-30 Coll. of Charleston Cl.*	F6 at Colgate	*at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
J7 Wagner	J12 at Monmouth	D6 Tennessee Temple	F7 at Austin Peay	D22 at Chattanooga	J3 Niagara	F11 at Army	Chattanooga
J10 Fairleigh Dickinson	F23 St. Francis (Pa.)	D13 Alcorn St.	F12 at Eastern Kentucky	D22 at Chattanooga	J6 at Robert Morris	F14 Holy Cross	N21 at Kansas
J12 at Monmouth	F28 Mount St. Mary's	D16 Savannah State	F14 at Morehead St.	D22 at Chattanooga	J10 at American	F20 at Bucknell	N24 at Oral Roberts
J14 Harvard	M1 Sacred Heart	D22 at Mississippi	F19 Austin Peay	D22 at Chattanooga	J14 at Lehigh	F22 at Lehigh	N26 Tennessee Wesleyan
J17 at Mount St. Mary's	Ohio Valley	D30 Alcorn St.	F21 Tennessee Tech	D22 at Chattanooga	J17 Navy	F27 American	N29 Emmanuel College
J24 Long Island	Austin Peay	J8 at Samford	F24 at Jacksonville St.	D22 at Chattanooga	J23 at Army	F29 Navy	D1 at Tennessee St.
J27 at St. Francis (N.Y.)	N24 Knoxville College	J6 at Tennessee St.	F26 Tennessee St.	D22 at Chattanooga	J25 at Lafayette	Lehigh	D11 at Liberty
J31 Central Connecticut	N26 at Belmont	J15 at Tennessee-Martin	*at Rock Hill, S.C.	D22 at Chattanooga	J30 Colgate	N21 Long Island	D13 King College
F2 at Quinnipiac	N29 at Memphis	D12 at Mississippi	SE Missouri St.	D22 at Chattanooga	F1 Holy Cross	N25 Stony Brook	D16 at Alabama
F5 at Robert Morris	D1 Evansville	D30 Alcorn St.	N21 Wis.-Green Bay	D22 at Chattanooga	F7 American	N29 at Sacred Heart	D20 at Elton
F7 at St. Francis (Pa.)	D6 at Alabama	J8 at Samford	N24 Kentucky Christian	D22 at Chattanooga	F11 Lehigh	D1 at Connecticut	D22 Tennessee St.
F12 St. Francis (N.Y.)	D13 at Western Kentucky	J17 at Savannah St.	N29-30 Montana Classic*	D22 at Chattanooga	F14 at Navy	D3 Swarthmore	D29-30 Chattanooga Cl.
F14 at Long Island	D15 Maryville	J24 Eastern Kentucky	D3 at Southern Illinois	D22 at Chattanooga	F20 Lafayette	D6 Harvard	J5 UNC Greensboro
F16 Monmouth	D18 West Virginia Tech	J29 SE Missouri St.	D6 UMKC	D22 at Chattanooga	F22 Army	D8 at Columbia	J10 Davidson
F19 Quinnipiac	D23 at Middle Tennessee	J31 Eastern Illinois	D9 at Arkansas	D22 at Chattanooga	F27 at Holy Cross	D17 Delaware Valley	J12 Appalachian St.
F21 at Central Conn.	D31 at Kentucky	F5 at Austin Peay	D13 Oakland City	D22 at Chattanooga	F29 at Colgate	D20 at Dartmouth	J17 at The Citadel
F23 at Wagner	J3 at Jacksonville State	F7 at Tennessee Tech	D22 North Texas	D22 at Chattanooga	*at Charleston, S.C.	D22 at Albany	J19 at Coll. of Charleston
F26 Mount St. Mary's	J8 at SE Missouri	F14 at Eastern Kentucky	D31 at DePaul	D22 at Chattanooga	Colgate	D30 at Vanderbilt	J24 Western Carolina
M1 Robert Morris	J15 at Eastern Kentucky	F19 Tennessee Tech	J3 at IP-FL Wayne	D22 at Chattanooga	N21 at Princeton	J2 Wagner	J26 at Furman
St. Francis (N.Y.)	J17 at Morehead St.	F21 Austin Peay	J8 Austin Peay	D22 at Chattanooga	N25 at Cornell	J10 Navy	J31 Georgia Southern
N17-29 Preseason NIT	J22 Eastern Illinois	F24 Samford	J10 Tennessee Tech	D22 at Chattanooga	N29 Drexel	J14 Bucknell	F7 at Western Carolina
N21 William & Mary	J24 Southeast Missouri	Morehead St.	J13 at Eastern Illinois	D22 at Chattanooga	D2 Albany	J17 at American	F9 East Tennessee
N22 TBA	J27 at Tennessee Tech	N19-21 BCA Classic*	J15 Tennessee St.	D22 at Chattanooga	D5 at New Hampshire	J23 at Lafayette	F14 at UNC Greensboro
D3 St. Peter's	J29 at Tennessee St.	N25 Asbury	J22 at Tennessee Tech	D22 at Chattanooga	D9 Buffalo	J25 at Army	F21 at Appalachian St.
D9 at St. John's	D31 at Kentucky	D3 Wright St.	J24 at Austin Peay	D22 at Chattanooga	D22 at Syracuse	J30 Holy Cross	F23 at East Tennessee
D17 Binghamton	J24 at Middle Tennessee	D6 Texas A&M-CC	J29 at Jacksonville St.	D22 at Chattanooga	D30 at Long Beach	F1 Colgate	F28 Wofford
D20 at Penn State	D31 at Eastern Kentucky	D13 at IP-FL Wayne	J31 at Samford	D22 at Chattanooga	J2 at Loyola Marymount	F7 at Navy	College of Charleston
D23 Mount St. Mary's	J22 Eastern Illinois	D15 Kentucky Christian	F7 Tennessee-Martin	D22 at Chattanooga	J8 Juniata	D10 at Bucknell	N21 Charleston Southern
D29 Cornell	J24 Southeast Missouri	D23 at Indiana	F10 Eastern Illinois	D22 at Chattanooga	J10 at Lafayette	F13 American	N26 Central Florida
J3 Quinnipiac	J27 at Tennessee Tech			D22 at Chattanooga	F20 Army	F22 Lafayette	D2 Davidson
J6 at Army	F21 Bracket Buster			D22 at Chattanooga			
J10 at St. Francis (Pa.)	F24 Tennessee Tech			D22 at Chattanooga			
J12 at Robert Morris	F28 Eastern Kentucky			D22 at Chattanooga			
J15 Monmouth				D22 at Chattanooga			

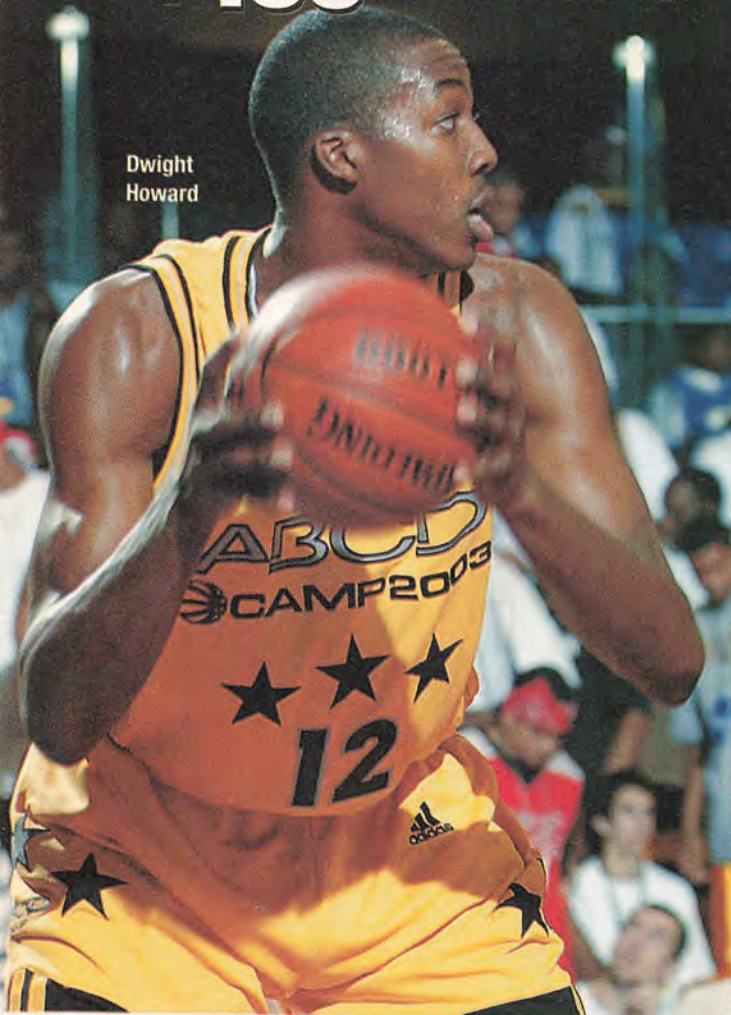
SCHEDULES

D6 at Coastal Carolina	J24 at Appalachian St.	UNC Greensboro	D18 Rice	J24 Louisiana-Monroe	M6 at UT-San Antonio	D9 TBA	J17 at Miss. Valley St.
D20 Richmond	J26 Wofford	N21 at Indiana	D20 Pacific	J29 at Texas-Arlington	*at Bozeman, Mont.	D13 Northern Colorado	J19 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
D23 at UNC Wilmington	J31 at Western Carolina	N25 at Campbell	D27-30 Rainbow Classic*	J31 at Texas-San Ant.	Stephen F. Austin	D17 Rochester	J24 Alabama St.
D29-30 Coll. of Charleston C.	F2 UNC Greensboro	N29 Greensboro College	J10 Sam Houston St.	F7 Sam Houston St.	N22 Houston Baptist	D23 at Tulsa	J26 Alabama A&M
J3 at Wisconsin	F7 Appalachian St.	D1 Furman	J15 at Louisiana-Monroe	F12 Northwestern St.	N25 at Baylor	D30 Abilene Christian	J29 Texas A&M-CC
J7 at Western Carolina	F9 at Chattanooga	D6 at American	J17 at Northwestern St.	F14 at SE Louisiana	N29 at Alcorn St.	J7 McNeese St.	J31 at Southern
J10 Furman	F14 Elon	D9 Campbell	J21 SE Louisiana	F19 at Lamar	D6 Alcorn St.	J10 Nicholls St.	F2 at Texas-Pan American
J12 at UNC Greensboro	F16 at The Citadel	D13 High Point	J24 at Texas St.	F21 at Stephen F. Austin	D8 at TCU	J15 Texas-Arlington	F7 at Jackson St.
J17 at Elon	F21 Bracket Buster	D18 at Coastal Carolina	J28 Texas-San Antonio	F28 Texas-Arlington	D11 at Centenary	J21 at UT-San Antonio	F9 at Grambling St.
J19 Chattanooga	F23 Chattanooga	D21 at Missouri	J31 Texas-Arlington	M1 Texas St.	D13 Grambling St.	J24 Lamar	F14 Miss. Valley St.
J24 at Georgia Southern	F28 at Coll. of Charleston	D23 at Maryland	F4 at Texas-Pan Am	M5 at McNeese St.	D20 Panhandle St.	J29 at La.-Monroe	F16 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
J31 at The Citadel	*at Honolulu	D28 at Villanova	F7 Northwestern St.	Northwestern St.	D22 Centenary	J31 at Northwestern St.	F21 at Alabama St.
F2 Wofford	Elon	J5 at Chattanooga	F11 Texas St.	N21 at Oklahoma St.	D30 Cameron	F5 SE Louisiana	F23 at Alabama A&M
F7 at Davidson	N17-18 Guardians Classic	J10 East Tennessee St.	F14 at McNeese St.	N22 at Tulsa	J3 Lyon	F11 at Lamar	F28 Southern
F9 Appalachian St.	N21 at Wake Forest	J12 Coll. of Charleston	F19 at Nicholls St.	N25 LSU	J8 at Northwestern St.	F14 Louisiana-Monroe	M4 Texas Southern
F11 at Wofford	D28 Bluefield	J17 at Appalachian St.	F21 at SE Louisiana	D2 at Centenary	J15 McNeese St.	F19 at Sam Houston	M6 Prairie View A&M
F14 The Citadel	D4 American	J19 at Western Carolina	F25 Stephen F. Austin	D9 at Tulane	J17 SE Louisiana	F21 at Texas-Arlington	Ark.-Pine Bluff
F16 Georgia Southern	D13 Methodist	J24 The Citadel	F28 Louisiana-Monroe	D13 Loyola (N. Orleans)	J22 at Louisiana-Monroe	F25 UT-San Antonio	N11 Ouachita
F21 Bracket Buster	D17 at Mercer	J31 at Davidson	M3 at Texas-San Antonio	D20 Troy St.	J24 Texas-Arlington	F28 at McNeese St.	N22 at Air Force
F23 at Furman	D20 Chattanooga	F2 at East Tenn. St.	M5 at Sam Houston St.	D28-29 Lobo Invitational*	J29 Sam Houston	M1 at Nicholls State	N24 at Texas A&M
F28 East Tenn. St.	D28 at Xavier	F7 Elon	*at Honolulu	J3 at Northwestern	J31 at SE Louisiana	M5 Stephen F. Austin	D29 at Tulane
The Citadel	D30 at Cincinnati	F9 at Wofford	Louisiana-Monroe	J8 Stephen F. Austin	F5 Texas-San Antonio	Southwestern	N2 at Oklahoma
N22 Webber International	J5 at Appalachian St.	F14 Chattanooga	N21-26 Las Vegas Cl.*	J10 at McNeese St.	F7 Louisiana-Monroe	Alabama A&M	D6 Louisiana Tech
N25 Washington & Lee	J10 at Western Carolina	F16 Appalachian St.	N29 at LSU	J15 Nicholls St.	F14 at Texas-Arlington	N21 at Jacksonville St.	D13 at Louisiana Tech
N28 Central Florida	J14 Maryland-E. Shore	F21 at Georgia Southern	D3 at Mississippi St.	J17 Lamar	F18 at McNeese St.	N26 at Texas A&M	D16 at Arkansas St.
D1 Appalachian St.	J17 Coll. of Charleston	F23 Western Carolina	D13 Arkansas-Little Rock	J22 at Sam Houston	F21 Nicholls St.	D29 Eastern Kentucky	D20 at New Mexico St.
D3 South Carolina	J19 E. Tennessee St.	F28 at Elon	D16 at Baylor	J24 at Texas-S. Antonio	F25 at Lamar	D6 Tuskegee	D22 at UTEP
D6 Emmanuel	J24 at Davidson	Western Carolina	D18 Togoaloo	J28 Huston-Tillotson	F28 at Sam Houston	D12 Tennessee St.	J3 at Miss. Valley St.
D9 at South Carolina St.	J26 Appalachian St.	N21 at Georgia	D20 at Mississippi	J31 Texas St.	M3 Northwestern St.	D17 at Georgia Tech	J10 at Alabama A&M
D17 at Tennessee	J31 at Wofford	N25 at Virginia Tech	D22 Texas College	F5 McNeese St.	M5 at Southwest Texas	D10 at UAB	J12 at Alabama St.
D19 Chowan	F2 Furman	N29 Milligan	D27 Arkansas-Monticello	F7 at Lamar	Texas-Arlington	D30 at Eastern Kentucky	J17 Southern
D22 Georgetown	F7 at UNC Greensboro	D2 High Point	D30 at Ark.-Little Rock	F17 at Nicholls St.	N22 at TCU	J3 at Jackson St.	J19 Alcorn St.
D30 at High Point	F9 The Citadel	D4 at Wofford	J3 Texas A&M	F18 at SE Louisiana	N24 at New Mexico St.	J5 at Grambling	J24 at Prairie View A&M
J2 Army	F14 at East Tenn. St.	D6 UNC Asheville	J8 at Texas-Arlington	F21 Sam Houston	N29 at Texas-Pan Am	J10 Ark.-Pine Bluff	J26 at Texas Southern
J6 at Davidson	F16 at Chattanooga	D15 North Greenville	J10 SE Louisiana	F26 Texas-Arlington	D3 Texas Wesleyan	J12 Miss. Valley St.	J31 Grambling
J10 at Georgia Southern	F21 Western Carolina	D17 Averett	J15 Lamar	F28 Texas-San Antonio	D5 UT-Permian Basin	J14 at Alabama St.	F2 Jackson St.
J17 Chattanooga	F23 at Georgia Southern	D22 at Arkansas	J17 at Sam Houston	M3 at Stephen F. Austin	D6 Ouachita Baptist	J27 at Alabama A&M	F7 Alabama A&M
J19 Furman	F28 UNC Greensboro	D29-30 Montana St. Tour.*	J22 Stephen F. Austin	M5 at Louisiana-Monroe	D22 at Wichita St.	J14 at Southern	F9 Alabama St.
J24 UNC Greensboro	Furman	J7 College of Charleston	D24 at Nicholls St.	*at Albuquerque, N.M.	D29-30 USF Holiday Cl.*	J26 at Alcorn St.	F14 at Southern
J26 at Western Carolina	N22 at James Madison	J10 Elon	J29 Texas St.	Sam Houston St.	J2 Arkansas-Monticello	J31 Prairie View A&M	F16 at Alcorn St.
J31 Coll. of Charleston	N24 Southern Wesleyan	J13 at Davidson	J31 Sam Houston	N21 Jarvis Christian	J8 Louisiana-Monroe	F2 Texas Southern	F21 Prairie View A&M
F2 Davidson	N26 Greensboro College	J17 at E. Tennessee St.	F5 Texas-Arlington	N24 at Texas	J10 Texas-San Antonio	F7 at Ark.-Pine Bluff	F23 Texas Southern
F7 Wofford	N30 at Minnesota	J19 UNC Greensboro	F7 at Stephen F. Austin	D3 Central Arkansas	J15 at Texas St.	F9 at Miss. Valley St.	F28 at Grambling
F9 at Elon	D3 at UNC Greensboro	J24 at Chattanooga	F14 at Texas St.	D3 at Texas A&M-CC	J17 McNeese St.	F14 Alabama St.	M1 at Jackson St.
F14 at Coll. of Charleston	D6 at Northern Iowa	J26 The Citadel	F21 McNeese St.	D6 at Arkansas St.	J21 Texas-Pan American	F16 at Savannah St.	M6 Miss. Valley St.
F16 East Tenn. St.	D14 at UNC Asheville	J31 East Tennessee St.	F26 at SE Louisiana	D14 Texas-Pan Am	J24 at Stephen F. Austin	F21 Southern	Grambling St.
F21 at Furman	D17 at Ohio St.	F2 Piedmont	F28 at Lamar	D17 at Texas Tech	J29 Nicholls St.	F23 Alcorn St.	N21 at Georgetown
F23 at Wofford	D20 High Point	F7 Chattanooga	M6 Northwestern St.	D19 Louisiana College	J31 at Lamar	F28 at Prairie View A&M	N25 at Ark.-Fayetteville
F28 Georgia Southern	D29-30 Holiday Classic	F9 at Georgia Southern	*at Las Vegas	D27-28 Fla. Int'l Classic*	F5 at Louisiana-Monroe	M1 at Texas Southern	N29 at Auburn
Davidson	J5 East Tennessee St.	F14 at Appalachian St.	McNeese St.	J3 Wiley College	F7 SE Louisiana	M4 Jackson St.	D3 Wiley College
N17-28 Preseason NIT	J10 at Coll. of Charleston	F16 Furman	N21 Spring Hill College	J8 Nicholls St.	F12 at McNeese St.	M6 Grambling	D5 at Marquette
N24 North Carolina*	J13 Erskine	N26 Loyola	N26 Loyola	J10 at Lamar	F14 at Stephen F. Austin	Alabama St.	D11 Texas College
N29 Rhode Island Coll.	J17 Georgia Southern	N29 Togoaloo	N29 Togoaloo	J17 Louisiana-Monroe	F19 at UT-San Antonio	N22 North Carolina A&T*	D13 at Stephen F. Austin
D1 at Coll. of Charleston	J19 at The Citadel	D1 at Mississippi St.	D1 at Mississippi St.	J22 Northwestern St.	F21 Texas St.	N24 at Birmingham So.	D17 at Saint Louis
D3 Hampton	J24 Wofford	D3 at LSU	D3 at LSU	J24 at SE Louisiana	F26 at Northwestern St.	N30 at South Alabama	D21 at Texas A&M
D6 at Georgetown	J26 Chattanooga	D6 at Centenary	D6 at Centenary	J29 at Stephen F. Austin	F28 at Nicholls St.	D4 at Middle Tennessee	D29 at TCU
D11 at UNC Charlotte	J31 Appalachian St.	D13 Liberty	D13 Liberty	J31 at La.-Monroe	M3 Sam Houston St.	D13 Florida A&M	J3 Alabama State
D13 Haverford	F2 at Elon	D15 at La.-Lafayette	D15 at La.-Lafayette	F7 at Nicholls St.	*at Tampa	D17 Middle Tennessee	J5 Alabama A&M
D22 at Seton Hall	F7 at Georgia Southern	D18 at George Mason	D18 at George Mason	F12 SE Louisiana	Texas-San Antonio	D20 Nevada**	J10 at Southern
D29 at Duke	F10 Davidson	D22 at Arizona St.	D22 at Arizona St.	F14 Texas-San Antonio	N20-23 Top World Classic*	D21 UC Santa Barbara**	J12 at Alcorn State
J3 Iona	F14 at Wofford	D30 Centenary	D30 Centenary	F19 Texas St.	N29 Illinois-Chicago	D30 at Mississippi	J17 Texas Southern
J6 The Citadel	F16 at Western Carolina	J7 at Texas St.	J7 at Texas St.	F21 at Northwestern St.	D2 at Oklahoma St.	J3 at Grambling	J19 Prairie View A&M
J10 at Chattanooga	F21 The Citadel	J10 Northwestern St.	J10 Northwestern St.	F26 at McNeese St.	D6 Texas-Pan American	J5 at Jackson St.	J24 at Jackson State
J13 Western Carolina	F25 Coll. of Charleston	J15 at Stephen F. Austin	J15 at Stephen F. Austin	F28 Stephen F. Austin	D13 at Baylor	J10 Mississippi Valley St.	J31 at Miss. Valley St.
J17 at Wofford	F28 at Davidson	J17 at Texas-Arlington	J17 at Texas-Arlington	M2 at Texas-Arlington	D15 Sul Ross St.	J12 Ark.-Pine Bluff	F2 Ark.-Pine Bluff
J21 at E. Tennessee St.	Georgia Southern	J22 at Nicholls St.	J22 at Nicholls St.	M4 Lamar	D18 Texas A&M	J17 Alabama A&M	F7 Southern
J24 Elon	N21 North Georgia	J28 at SE Louisiana	J28 at SE Louisiana	*at Miami	D20 Texas-Tyler	J24 at Alcorn St.	F9 Alcorn State
J27 at Georgia Southern	N24 at UAB	F5 at Northwestern St.	F5 at Northwestern St.	SE Louisiana	D28-29 Utah St. Tour.**	J26 at Southern	F14 at Texas Southern
J31 UNC Greensboro	N28 at Savannah St.	F7 at UT-San Antonio	F7 at UT-San Antonio	N22 Wiley College	J3 Elmhurst	J31 Texas Southern	F16 at Prairie View A&M
F3 at The Citadel	D1 Mercer	F12 Texas-Arlington	F12 Texas-Arlington	N25 at Alabama	J10 at Texas-Arlington	F2 Prairie View A&M	F21 Jackson State
F7 Coll. of Charleston	D6 at East Tennessee St.	F14 Lamar	F14 Lamar	N29 at Mississippi	J15 at SE Louisiana	F7 at Miss. Valley St.	F28 Mississippi Valley St.
F10 at Furman	D15 at Wagner	F21 at La.-Monroe	F21 at La.-Monroe	D2 Belhaven	J17 at Nicholls St.	F9 at Ark.-Pine Bluff	M1 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
F14 Georgia Southern	D17 at Southern Miss	F26 Sam Houston St.	F26 Sam Houston St.	D13 at Southland	J21 Texas St.	F14 at Alabama A&M	M4 at Alabama State
F18 Wofford	D20 Tennessee Temple	F28 Texas St.	F28 Texas St.	D16 Arkansas Baptist	F21 Alcorn St.	F23 Southern	M6 at Alabama
F24 at Appalachian St.	D29-30 Islander Invit.*	M3 SE Louisiana	M3 SE Louisiana	D20 Tulane	J24 Northwestern St.	F28 at Texas Southern	Jackson St.
F28 Furman	J2 Fort Valley St.	M5 Nicholls St.	M5 Nicholls St.	D29-30 Montana St. Tour.*	J28 at Lamar	M1 at Prairie View A&M	N22 at South Alabama
*at Charlotte	J7 Wofford	Nicholls St.	Nicholls St.	J3 Loyola	J31 Nicholls St.	M4 Grambling	N25 at Louisiana Tech
East Tenn. St.	J10 The Citadel	N21 at Arkansas	N21 at Arkansas	J10 at Louisiana-Monroe	F5 at Stephen F. Austin	M6 Jackson St.	D1 at Jacksonville St.
N21 at Houston	J17 Savannah St.	N26 at Florida St.	N26 at Florida St.	J14 Texas-San Antonio	F7 McNeese St.	*at Atlanta	D3 South Alabama
N23 at Texas Tech	J17 at Furman	N29 Wiley College	N29 Wiley College	J17 at Stephen F. Austin	F11 Louisiana-Monroe	*at Reno, Nev.	D14 at Portland St.
N25 Mars Hill	J19 at Wofford	D1 Dillard	D1 Dillard	J21 at Lamar	F14 at Sam Houston St.	Alcorn St.	D16 at Montana
D3 at UNC Asheville	J24 Coll. of Charleston	D10 Southern	D10 Southern	J24 Sam Houston St.	F18 Texas-Arlington	N21 at So. Mississippi	D18 at Utah St.
D6 Georgia Southern	J27 Davidson	D13 at Texas Southern	D13 at Texas Southern	J28 McNeese St.	F26 at Texas St.	N25 at Texas A&M-CC	D21 at Oklahoma
D15 at Clemson	J31 at Chattanooga	D15 Mobile	D15 Mobile	J31 Stephen F. Austin	F28 at Northwestern St.	N29 Stephen F. Austin	D28 at Oregon St.
D17 at Tennessee Tech	F2 at Appalachian St.	D17 Loyola New Orleans	D17 Loyola New Orleans	F4 at Texas St.	M3 Lamar	D2 at Arkansas	J3 Alabama St.
D20 Virginia-Wise	F7 Furman	D21 Birmingham So.	D21 Birmingham So.	F7 at Texas-Arlington	M5 SE Louisiana	D6 at Stephen F. Austin	J5 Alabama A&M
D27-30 Rainbow Classic*	F9 Western Carolina	D31 at Tulane	D31 at Tulane	F11 at Sam Houston St.	*at Fairbanks, Alaska	D13 Jacksonville St.	J10 at Alcorn St.
J5 at Furman	F14 at Davidson	J3 at Mississippi	J3 at Mississippi	F14 Nicholls St.	*at Logan, Utah	D30 at Jacksonville St.	J12 at Southern
J10 at UNC Greensboro	F18 at Coll. of Charleston	J8 at Sam Houston St.	J8 at Sam Houston St.	F18 Northwestern St.	Texas St.	J3 at Texas Southern	J17 Prairie View A&M
J12 Union College	F21 UNC Greensboro	J10 at Texas St.	J10 at Texas St.	F21 Lamar	N22 at New Orleans	J5 at Prairie View A&M	J19 Texas Southern
J17 Western Carolina	F23 Elon	J15 at Northwestern St.	J15 at Northwestern St.	F25 Louisiana-Monroe	N24 Texas Lutheran	J10 Jackson St.	J24 Grambling St.
J19 at Elon	F28 at The Citadel	J17 Texas-San Antonio	J17 Texas-San Antonio	M3 at McNeese St.	N26-29 Gr. Alaska Shoot.	J31 Mississippi Valley St.	J31 Mississippi Valley St.
J21 Davidson	*at Corpus Christi, Texas	J22 McNeese St.	J22 McNeese St.		D5-6 SW Missouri Turn.	F2 at Ark.-Pine Bluff	

F7 Alcorn St.	Texas Southern	D6 Southern Utah	F5 at Western Kentucky	F26 at New Orleans	N29 at Oklahoma St.	D29-30 Hoops Classic**	J31 at Youngstown St.
F9 Southern	N22 at Baylor	D10 at UMKC	F7 at Florida Int'l	F29 at South Alabama	D1 CS Fullerton	J3 at SW Missouri St.	F4 at Butler
F14 at Prairie View A&M	N25 at Southern Miss	D13 Colorado St.	F12 at North Texas	South Alabama	D3 at UC Santa Barbara	J6 at New Mexico	F7 Texas-Pan American
F16 at Texas Southern	D1 Texas College	D16 Loyola Marymount	F12 Denver	N22 Jackson St.	D6 Long Beach St.	J10 St. Mary's	F11 at IUPUI
F21 at Grambling St.	D4 at Colorado State	D20 at Montana St.	F19 at Arkansas St.	N26 at Mississippi St.	D12 at Lipscomb	J15 Pepperdine	F14 at Wright St.
F28 Mississippi Valley St.	D8 at Lamar	D30 Northern Colorado	F21 at Ark.-Little Rock	N30 Alabama St.	D14 at Maryland	J17 Loyola Marymount	F17 Florida Gulf Coast
M1 Arkansas-Pine Bluff	D13 Nicholls State	J2 at Southern Utah	F26 Western Kentucky	D3 at Jackson St.	D18 at UC Irvine	J22 at San Francisco	F25 at Oakland
M6 at Alabama St.	D15 Bethune-Cookman	J6 Wyoming	M1 Florida Int'l	D12 at Georgia St.	D20 Bradley	J24 at St. Mary's	F28 at Valparaiso
M8 at Alabama A&M	D19 Hawaii	J10 Louisiana-Lafayette	*at Chattanooga, Tenn.	D15 Old Dominion*	D27-30 Rainbow Classic*	J29 Portland	M1 IUPUI
Miss. Valley St.	D20 Idaho State*	J15 at North Texas	New Mexico St.	D18 at Georgia	J3 Colorado St.**	J31 Gonzaga	**at Ames, Iowa
N17-25 Guardians Classic*	J3 Alcorn State	J17 Florida International	N22 N. Mexico Highlands	D22 TBA	J5 at Utah	F5 at Santa Clara	**at West Lafayette, Ind.
D1 Delta State	J5 Southern	J22 at Arkansas St.	N23 Texas-Arlington	D28 TBA	J8 Gonzaga	F7 Santa Clara	Savannah State
D6 Tennessee-Martin	J10 Prairie View A&M	J24 at Ark.-Little Rock	N29 Eastern New Mexico	D30 TBA	J10 Portland	F12 at Pepperdine	N21-22 Blue and Gold Cl.*
D11 at Delta State	J12 at Texas A&M-CC	J29 South Alabama	D6 UTEP	J3 at UAB	J15 at San Diego	F14 at Loyola Marymount	N24 Saint Louis
D12 Texas-Pan Am	J17 at Grambling	J31 New Orleans	D8 at Tulsa	J6 West Alabama	J17 at Santa Clara	F21 San Francisco	N28 Georgia Southern
D20 at Tenn.-Martin	J19 at Jackson State	F5 at New Mexico St.	D14 at UTEP	J10 New Orleans	J24 Loyola Marymount	F26 at Gonzaga	D6 at Jacksonville
D27-28 UTEP Tour.	J24 Miss. Valley St.	F7 at La.-Lafayette	F12 Western Kentucky	J15 at La.-Lafayette	J29 San Francisco	F28 at Portland	D8 Eastern Kentucky
J3 Ark.-Pine Bluff	J26 Ark.-Pine Bluff	F12 Western Kentucky	D22 at New Mexico	J17 at New Mexico St.	J31 St. Mary's	*at Cincinnati	D13 at Utah
J10 at Alabama State	J31 at Alabama State	F14 at Middle Tennessee	D29-30 Utah St. Tour.*	J22 Middle Tennessee	F5 at Gonzaga	**at Tempe, Ariz.	D16 Jacksonville State
J12 at Alabama A&M	F2 at Alabama A&M	F19 North Texas	J10 at North Texas	J24 Western Kentucky	F7 at Portland	San Francisco	D18 Birmingham So.
J17 Alcorn State	F7 at Prairie View A&M	F23 New Mexico St.	J15 New Orleans	J29 at Denver	F12 San Diego	N17-18 Guardians Classic*	D20 at Eastern Kentucky
J19 Southern	F14 Grambling	F28 at South Alabama	J17 South Alabama	J31 at North Texas	F14 Santa Clara	N21 Ohio St.	D22 Jacksonville
J24 at Texas Southern	F16 Jackson State	F28 at New Orleans	J21 at La.-Lafayette	F5 at Ark.-Little Rock	F21 at Loyola Marymount	N30 at Delaware	D29-30 UWGB Classic**
J26 at Prairie View A&M	F21 at Miss. Valley St.	N21-23 Fla. Inter. Tour.	J24 Texas-Pan American	F7 Arkansas St.	F26 at San Francisco	D2 at Saint Joseph's	J3 at Miami (Fla.)
J31 Jackson State	F23 at Ark.-Pine Bluff	N25 at George Washington	J26 Florida International	F12 Louisiana-Lafayette	F28 at St. Mary's	D6 at Montana	J6 at Air Force
F2 Grambling State	F28 Alabama State	N29 North Florida	J29 at Middle Tennessee	F14 New Mexico St.	*at Honolulu	D13 Ohio	J10 at Kansas State
F7 Alabama State	M1 Alabama A&M	D1 at Florida Atlantic	J31 at Western Kentucky	F19 at New Orleans	Portland	D16 Sonoma St.	J12 at Georgia Southern
F9 Alabama A&M	M4 at Alcorn State	D6 at Miami	F5 Denver	F23 at Florida Int'l	N21 Boise St.	D20 Md.-Baltimore County	J14 at Bethune-Cookman
F14 at Alcorn State	M6 at Southern	D13 La Salle	F7 North Texas	F26 Denver	N25 at Oregon St.	D23 Pacific	J19 at Jacksonville State
F16 at Southern	Sun Belt	D15 at Stanford	F12 at New Orleans	F29 North Texas	N29 Long Beach St.	D27 at Fresno St.	J24 at Tulane
F21 Texas Southern	Ark.-Little Rock	D20 at South Florida	F14 at North Alabama	*at Mobile, Ala.	D1 at New Mexico	D29-30 Utah St. Tour**	J29 Md.-Eastern Shore
F23 Prairie View A&M	N22 at Arizona St.	D27-28 Fla. Inter. Classic	F19 Louisiana-Lafayette	Western Kentucky	D6 Nevada	J3 Sacramento St.	F1 at Florida State
F28 at Jackson State	N25 at St. Bonaventure	J3 Arkansas St.	F21 Bracket Buster	N21 at Auburn	D14 at Duke	J10 at Santa Clara	F12 at Md.-Eastern Shore
M1 at Grambling	N29 Southern Arkansas	J6 Arkansas-Little Rock	F23 at Denver	N25 at Va. Commonwealth	D6 Portland St.	J15 at Gonzaga	F16 Alabama A&M
M6 at Ark.-Pine Bluff	D2 Alcorn St.	J10 at Canisius	F26 Arkansas-Little Rock	N29 Mississippi State	D16 at Weber St.	J17 at Portland	F18 Bethune-Cookman
Springfield, Mo.	Prairie View A&M	J17 at Denver	F28 Arkansas St.	D4 Louisville	D19 at Portland St.	J22 San Diego	F21 at Birmingham So.
N22 at Oregon State	N22 at Oregon State	J19 at North Texas	*at Logan, Utah	D7 Murray State	D22 Oregon	J24 Santa Clara	F25 Texas A&M-CC
N25 at Duquesne	N25 at Duquesne	J24 Louisiana-Lafayette	New Orleans	D13 Austin Peay	J31 at Boise St.	J29 at Loyola Marymount	*at Milwaukee
D1 at Texas A&M	D17 Southern	J31 Western Kentucky	N22 Southwest Texas	D16 at Illinois State	D28 at Boise St.	J12 at Pepperdine	**at Green Bay
D3 Wis.-Milwaukee	D20 at Creighton	F7 Middle Tennessee St.	D3 at Tulane	D20 Evansville	D30 at San Diego St.	F5 at St. Mary's	Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
D13 at Oklahoma	D30 Louisiana-Monroe	F12 Florida Gulf Coast	D14 at Texas	D23 at Ball State	J3 at Northern Arizona	F7 St. Mary's	N22 Texas A&M-Int'l
D20 at Dayton	J3 Mississippi St.	F14 at Ark.-Little Rock	D16 at Missouri St.	D30 at Fordham	J8 at Loyola Marymount	F12 Gonzaga	N25 Alcorn St.
D23 at Texas A&M-CC	J6 at Florida Int'l	F16 at Arkansas St.	D19 Idaho St.*	J7 Kentucky State	J10 at Pepperdine	F14 Portland	N29 at Baylor
D27-28 Golden Bear Cl.*	J10 Arkansas St.	F21 New Orleans	D20 Hawaii*	J2 at Arkansas State	J15 St. Mary's	F21 at San Diego	D3 Sam Houston St.
J3 Southern	J15 at Western Kentucky	F23 South Alabama	D27 Loyola New Orleans	J15 Ark.-Little Rock	J17 San Francisco	F26 Pepperdine	D6 at Morehead St.
J5 Alcorn State	J17 at Middle Tennessee	F28 at Western Kentucky	D29-30 USF Holiday Cl.**	J22 at New Orleans	J24 Gonzaga	F28 Loyola Marymount	D13 at Texas A&M
J10 at Texas Southern	J22 North Texas	M1 at Middle Tenn. St.	J2 at Auburn	J24 New Mexico State	J29 at San Diego	*at Columbia, S.C.	D20 at Kansas St.
J17 at Jackson State	J24 Denver	La.-Lafayette	J4 at Southern Miss	J29 Louisiana-Lafayette	J31 at Santa Clara	*at Logan, Utah	D23 Prairie View A&M
J19 at Grambling	J26 Williams Baptist	N17-28 Preseason NIT	J10 at South Alabama	J31 at Florida Int'l	F5 Loyola Marymount	Santa Clara	D29-30 Islander Invit.
J24 Ark.-Pine Bluff	J31 at Arkansas St.	N24 at Loyola (La.)	J12 Louisiana St.	F5 Middle Tennessee	F7 Pepperdine	N24-26 Maui Invitational*	J4 at Binghamton
J26 Miss. Valley St.	F5 South Alabama	D9 at Dayton	J15 at New Mexico St.	F12 at Denver	F14 at San Francisco	D1 Holy Names College	J6 at Oklahoma St.
J31 at Alabama A&M	F7 at New Orleans	D15 McNeese St.	J17 at La.-Lafayette	F14 North Texas	F21 at Gonzaga	D3 at San Jose St.	J12 Texas Southern
F2 at Alabama State	F14 Florida International	D28-30 Fiesta Bowl Cl.*	J22 Western Kentucky	F19 at Ark.-Little Rock	F26 Santa Clara	D6 at Montana St.	J17 at IUPUI-Ft. Wayne
F7 Texas Southern	F19 Western Kentucky	J3 Houston	J24 Middle Tennessee	F21 Bracket Buster	F28 San Diego	D13 Pacific	J19 at Chicago St.
F14 Jackson State	F21 Middle Tennessee	J10 at Denver	J29 at North Texas	F26 at Middle Tennessee	St. Mary's	D15 at E. Washington	J26 Murray St.
F16 Grambling	F26 at New Mexico St.	J15 South Alabama	J31 at Denver	F28 Florida International	N21-23 Top of World Classic*	D17 at Oregon	J29 at Alcorn St.
F21 at Ark.-Pine Bluff	F28 at La.-Lafayette	J17 New Orleans	F4 at Arkansas St.	TBA at South Alabama	N26 UC Santa Barbara	D22 Md.-Baltimore County	F2 Schreiner
F23 at Miss. Valley St.	*at Ames, Iowa	J22 New Mexico St.	F12 New Mexico St.	West Coast	N29-30 Montana Classic**	D29-30 Cable Car Classic	F7 Northern Colorado
F28 Alabama A&M	Arkansas St.	J24 at Florida Int'l	F14 Louisiana-Lafayette	Gonzaga	D3 College of Notre Dame	J10 San Francisco	F14 at Texas-Pan Am
M1 Alabama State	N21 at Mississippi	J29 at W. Kentucky	F19 South Alabama	See Page 117.	D6 USC	J15 Loyola Marymount	F21 Central Baptist
M4 at Southern	N24 West Alabama	J31 at Middle Tennessee	F21 at Fla. International	Loyola Marymount	D13 UC Santa Cruz	J17 Pepperdine	F23 at Murray St.
M6 at Alcorn State	N29 Harding	F5 North Texas	F26 North Texas	N21 UC Riverside	D17 at Arizona	J22 at St. Mary's	F25 at Savannah St.
*at Berkeley, Calif.	D2 Toledo	F7 Denver	F28 Denver	N25 CS Northridge	D22 at UC Riverside	J24 at San Francisco	F28 Texas-Pan American
Southern	D6 Sam Houston St.	F12 at South Alabama	*at Honolulu	N29-30 Cent. Conn. St. Tour.*	D28-29 Shamrock Cl.***	J29 Gonzaga	Texas-Pan American
N21 at LSU	D8 at Liberty	F14 at New Orleans	**at Tampa	D3 Cal Poly	J2 at BYU	J31 Portland	N22 SMU
N25 at Tulane	D13 Southern Mississippi	F19 at New Mexico St.	North Texas	D6 UNLV	J5 at Sacramento St.	F5 San Diego	N25 Texas A&M-Int'l
D1 West Alabama	D17 Arkansas-Pine Bluff	F21 Bracket Buster	N21 NW Oklahoma St.	D13 at UCLA	J10 at San Diego	F7 at San Diego	N29 Texas-Arlington
D3 North Texas	D22 at Texas Christian	F23 at North Texas	N29 at Lamar	D16 at Denver	J15 at Portland	F12 at Loyola Marymount	D4 at UMKC
D6 at SE Louisiana	D28-29 Lobo Invitational*	F26 Arkansas St.	D3 at Southern	D19 Virginia	J22 Santa Clara	F14 at Pepperdine	D6 Texas-San Antonio
D10 at Nicholls St.	J3 at Florida Int'l	F28 Ark.-Little Rock	D6 Hardin Simmons	D23 at Long Beach St.	J24 San Diego	F26 at Portland	D12 at Miss. Valley St.
D13 SE Louisiana	J7 Western Kentucky	*Tucson, Ariz.	D9 Baylor	D30 at CS Fullerton	J29 at Pepperdine	F28 at Gonzaga	D14 at Sam Houston St.
D17 at Ark.-Little Rock	J10 at Ark.-Little Rock	Middle Tennessee	D13 at TCU	J2 Colgate	J31 at Loyola Marymount	*at Maui, Hawaii	D17 North Texas
D20 at Florida A&M	J15 at Middle Tennessee	N24 Covenant College	D17 at Texas-Pan Am	J8 Portland	F5 San Francisco	Independents	D20 at Rice
J3 at Prairie View A&M	J17 at Western Kentucky	N29 at Wyoming	D22 at St. Bonaventure	J10 Gonzaga	F7 at San Francisco	IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	D22 at Oklahoma St.
J5 at Texas Southern	J22 Denver	D4 Alabama St.	D22 at SE Missouri St.	J15 at Santa Clara	F12 Portland	N21 Toledo	D29 at Oklahoma
J10 Grambling	J24 North Texas	D6 at Tennessee Tech	D29 Indiana	J17 at San Diego	F14 Gonzaga	N25 Kent State	D31 McMurry
J12 Jackson St.	J31 Arkansas-Little Rock	D13 Tennessee Wesleyan	J3 at Arkansas	J20 Northern Colorado	F21 at Santa Clara	N29 at Oregon St.	J6 at Baylor
J17 at Ark.-Pine Bluff	F4 New Orleans	D15 at UAB	J8 Texas-Pan American	J24 at Pepperdine	F26 Loyola Marymount	D1 at Washington St.	J8 at North Texas
J19 at Miss. Valley St.	F7 at South Alabama	D17 at Alabama St.	J10 New Mexico St.	J29 San Francisco	F28 Pepperdine	D5-6 Cyclone Challenge*	J14 at Wright St.
J24 Alabama A&M	F11 at Texas-Pan Am	D20 at Cincinnati	J15 Denver	J31 St. Mary's	*at Fairbanks, Alaska	D10 Bowling Green St.	J19 at UMKC
J26 Alabama St.	F16 Florida International	D23 Austin Peay	J22 at Ark.-Little Rock	F5 at Portland	**at Missoula, Mont.	D13 Morehead St.	J21 at Texas-Arlington
J31 Alcorn St.	F19 Middle Tennessee	D29-30 Chattanooga Cl.*	J24 at Arkansas St.	F7 at Gonzaga	***at Moraga, Calif.	D20-21 Boilermaker Invit.**	J28 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne
F7 at Grambling	F26 at La.-Lafayette	J6 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	J29 New Orleans	F12 Santa Clara	San Diego	D28 at West Virginia	D27 Alcorn St.
F9 at Jackson St.	F28 at New Mexico St.	J8 Wyoming	J31 South Alabama	F21 Pepperdine	N15-17 BCA Classic*	D30 at Miami	F4 Lamar
F14 Arkansas-Pine Bluff	M1 Texas-Pan American	J15 Arkansas St.	F5 at La.-Lafayette	F26 at St. Mary's	N22 at Creighton	J3 SE Missouri St.	F7 at IP-Ft. Wayne
F16 Miss. Valley St.	*at Albuquerque, N.M.	J17 Ark.-Little Rock	F7 at New Mexico St.	F28 at San Francisco	N28 SMU	J6 at Middle Tennessee	F11 Arkansas St.
F21 at Alabama A&M	Denver	J22 at South Alabama	F12 Middle Tennessee	*at New Britain, Conn.	D3 San Diego St.	J9 at Air Force	F16 Texas A&M-CC
F23 at Alabama St.	N24 at Gonzaga	J24 at New Orleans	F14 at Western Kentucky	Pepperdine	D6 at Utah	J14 at Western Michigan	F19 Central Baptist
F28 at Alcorn St.	N26 at E. Washington	J29 New Mexico St.	F19 at Denver	N21 Dayton	D9 SW Missouri St.	J17 Texas A&M-CC	F28 at Texas A&M-CC
M4 Prairie View A&M	N29 at Chicago St.	J31 La.-Lafayette	F21 Louisiana-Lafayette	N24 Colorado	D13 at UC Santa Barbara	J19 Tri-St.	M1 at Arkansas St.
M6 Texas Southern	D3 Montana St.				D20 at Northern Arizona	J28 at Texas-Pan Am	

Top 100 seniors

Dwight Howard



Sporting News asked Rivals.com recruiting analyst Mike Sullivan to break down the best prospects of the 2004 class, as well as the nation's best high school juniors and sophomores.

Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	High school/Hometown
1.	Dwight Howard	PF	6-10/225	SW Christian Academy/Atlanta

Howard is a likely candidate to jump early to the NBA in the June 2004 draft. He has quick feet, soft hands and possesses skillful inside moves. He's a lottery lock and a possible No. 1 pick.

2.	Joshua Smith	PF	6-9/210	McEachern/Powder Springs, Ga.
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A bouncy, athletic forward who can leap to the sky. Smith has committed to Indiana, but Hoosiers fans will have to hold their breath in the spring when Smith decides between college and the NBA.

3.	Shaun Livingston	PG	6-6/170	Peoria Central/Peoria, Ill.
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Livingston is an exciting point guard with size and the ability to distribute in transition. As his long-range shooting game improves, he will set himself up for a big-time NBA career after he finishes college ball.

4.	Al Jefferson	C	6-9/260	Prentiss/Prentiss, Miss.
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Jefferson will have NBA scouts following him this season. He already has an NBA frame and has the ability to dominate inside. He has given a commitment to Arkansas, but don't count on him playing college ball.

5.	Glen Davis	C/PF	6-8/330	University/Baton Rouge, La.
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"Big Baby" was perhaps the best player on the AAU circuit this past summer. His wide frame allows him to seal his man inside effectively for his low-post moves. He will be a big-time college player.

6.	Marvin Williams	SF	6-8/215	Bremerton/Bremerton, Wash.
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A solid pickup for North Carolina, Williams is a relentless worker on the glass. He battles hard and does a nice job finishing up on loose balls in the paint.

7.	Robert Swift	C	7-1/245	Highland/Bakersfield, Calif.
Swift had a monster summer. He is one of the most improved big men over the past year, and he's getting better with his moves to the basket. As he gets stronger, Swift will end up being a big-time college player and someday an NBA center. He committed to Southern California.				
8.	Rudy Gay	SF	6-8/205	Archbishop Spaulding/Severn, Md.
Had an outstanding spring and summer on the AAU circuit. He has the ability to take his dribble to the basket and drop jumpers from the perimeter.				
9.	Shawne Williams	G/F	6-9/215	Hamilton/Memphis
Another candidate for early entry into the NBA, although he has committed to Memphis. Williams helped his team win the National AAU event this summer in Orlando. Has guard skills and should be an attractive athlete for NBA scouts.				
10.	Sebastian Telfair	PG	5-11/170	Lincoln/Brooklyn, N.Y.
One of the most exciting players in the country and perhaps the best passing guard in the 2004 class. Telfair can dart past you in a New York second, and he'll pick your pocket clean on the defensive end. He can be selfish with the ball, though.				
11.	Kyle Lowry	PG	5-11/170	Cardinal Dougherty/Philadelphia
Lowry could be one of the best offensive players in this class. He can break down a defense with this dribble and can shoot from deep. He was the best guard in AAU competition this summer and perhaps the most productive player in the major events.				
12.	DeMarcus Nelson	PG/SG	6-3/195	Sheldon/Sacramento
Nelson is a strong guard who can light up a scoreboard with his drives to the basket or his jumpers from the perimeter. He will perform these exciting skills at Duke in 2004-2005.				
13.	LaMarcus Aldridge	F/C	6-10/215	Seagoville/Dallas
Aldridge has spoken before about placing his name in the NBA draft. He certainly has the potential to be a pro someday. But Aldridge, who has committed to Texas, should spend some time in college to work on scoring consistently in the low post.				
14.	Malik Hairston	G/F	6-5/190	Renaissance/Detroit
A player who is very effective slashing to the basket, picking up loose balls and scoring on drives. Hairston also has a soft touch from the outside.				
15.	D.J. White	F	6-8/220	Hillcrest/Tuscaloosa, Ala.
A big man who plays effectively with his back to the basket. White has committed to Mike Davis' program at Indiana.				
16.	Earl "J.R." Smith	SG	6-5/180	St. Benedict's/Newark, N.J.
Smith can thump you with a dunk or drain a 3-pointer from deep. As his ballhandling improves, he will be able to score big in college.				
17.	Darius Washington	PG	6-0/165	Edgewater/Orlando
An outstanding scoring guard who has the ability to carry a team on his shoulders—at least offensively. Washington is expected to play for Memphis in 2004-2005.				
18.	A.J. Price	PG	6-1/180	Amityville/Amityville, N.Y.
Price had a terrific summer. He polished his point guard skills and scored consistently throughout the summer AAU sessions.				
19.	Joe Crawford	SG	6-4/205	Renaissance/Detroit
An outstanding guard who can fake a defender with his twisting drives to the basket. Crawford had a great summer for The Family AAU team.				
20.	Randolph Morris	C	6-11/245	Landmark Christian/Palmetto, Ga.
Although he was the No. 3 option—behind Howard and Joshua Smith—on his summer team, Morris stood out with his efficient play and excellent attitude. He's a rarity among prospects: a true center.				
21.	Russell Robinson	PG	6-2/187	Rice/New York
Robinson helped the New York City Gauchos win the Peach Jam tournament and the Super Showcase this summer. He is a winner who plays hard and effectively on both ends of the court.				
22.	Daniel Gibson	G	6-3/200	Jones/Houston
Gibson should score plenty when he plays at Texas in 2004-2005. The future of the Longhorns is even more exciting with Gibson aboard.				
23.	Jason Rich	SG	6-3/188	Dr. Phillips/Orlando
Rich is a smooth offensive player who has a lot of bounce and plenty of perimeter skill. He had a great summer and elevated his chances of making the McDonald's All-American team.				
24.	Alexander Kaun	C	6-11/245	Florida Air Acad./Melbourne, Fla.
Kaun, originally from Siberia, had a red-hot spring but didn't play much in the summer because of injury. But he is an outstanding big man with all the skills to be a pro someday.				
25.	Mike Williams	PF	6-7/225	Wilcox Central/Camden, Ala.
Williams makes his living scoring points inside, and his touch from the outside has improved. That makes him a very attractive player for Texas in the 2004-2005.				

JEFF CROWE

Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	High school/Hometown
26.	Juan Diego Tello Palacios	F/C	6-8/250	Our Savior New American/Centereach, N.Y.
27.	A.J. Ratliff	G	6-2/180	North Central/Indianapolis
28.	Jawann McClellan	G	6-5/202	Milby/Houston
29.	Brian Johnson	C	6-9/220	Bishop O'Connell/Arlington, Va.
30.	Corey Brewer	F	6-7/178	Portland/Portland, Tenn.
31.	Darnell Jackson	PF/C	6-9/235	Midwest City/Oklahoma City
32.	Jordan Farmer	PG	6-2/170	Taft/Woodland Hills, Calif.
33.	Marshall Brown	SF	6-6/205	Johnson/Austin, Texas
34.	Kalen Grimes	PF	6-8/235	Hazelwood Central/Florissant, Mo.
35.	Greg Stiemsma	C	6-11/225	Randolph/Randolph, Wis.
36.	Steven Hill	C	6-11/220	Branson/Branson, Mo.
37.	Joakim Noah	PF/C	6-10/190	Lawrenceville /Lawrenceville, N.J.
38.	Roy Bright	PF	6-6/195	Mount Zion Christian Academy/Durham, N.C.
39.	Albert Weber	G	6-3/195	Mount Zion Christian Academy/Durham, N.C.
40.	Cedric Simmons	PF	6-9/205	West Brunswick/Shallotte, N.C.
41.	Josh Wright	PG	6-1/170	Proctor/Utica, N.Y.
42.	Aaron Affalo	G	6-5/195	Centennial/Compton, Calif.
43.	Sean Singletary	PG	5-11/175	Penn Charter/Philadelphia
44.	JamesOn Curry	G	6-2/165	Eastern Alamance/Mebane, N.C.
45.	Isaiah Swann	G	6-0/192	Oak Hill Academy/Mouth of Wilson, Va.
46.	Robert Kurz	SF	6-7/200	Penn Charter/Philadelphia
47.	Dion Dowell	SF	6-7/185	Texas City/Texas City, Texas
48.	Dayshaun Wright	PF/SF	6-7/220	George Fowler/Syracuse, N.Y.
49.	Jeremis Smith	F	6-7/230	Dunbar/Fort Worth, Texas
50.	Josh Shipp	SF	6-5/200	Fairfax/Los Angeles
51.	Dorell Wright	F	6-7/200	South Kent/South Kent, Conn.
52.	Ron Steele	PG	6-3/190	John Carroll/Birmingham, Ala.
53.	Joe McCray	SG	6-5/193	Laurinburg/Laurinburg, N.C.
54.	Ra'Sean Dickey	C	6-9/255	Marlboro County/Bennettsville, S.C.
55.	C.J. Anderson	G/F	6-4/190	Winton Woods/Cincinnati
56.	Taurean Green	PG	6-0/165	Pendleton Academy/Bradenton, Fla.
57.	Marquie Cooke	PG	6-3/205	Nansemond River/Suffolk, Va.
58.	James Gist	F	6-8/215	Good Counsel/Wheaton, Md.
59.	James Hardy	F	6-6/215	Elmhurst/Fort Wayne, Ind.
60.	Mohamed Tangara	F/C	6-9/225	Mount Zion Christian Academy/Durham, N.C.
61.	Charles Thomas	PF	6-7/220	Lanier/Jackson, Miss.
62.	Jason Horton	PG	6-1/170	Cedar Hill/Cedar Hill, Texas
63.	Marquise Gray	F	6-8/210	Flint Beecher/Flint, Mich.
64.	Robert Vaden	F	6-5/200	Pike/Indianapolis
65.	Rahshon Clark	F	6-7/190	Bridgton Academy/Far Rockaway, N.Y.
66.	Brian Laing	F	6-4/200	St. Raymond's/Bronx, N.Y.
67.	Glenn Miles	PG/SG	6-5/190	West End/Birmingham, Ala.
68.	Dupree Fletcher	PG	5-11/178	King/Milwaukee
69.	Jamar Butler	G	6-2/190	Shawnee/Lima, Ohio
70.	Rajon Rondo	G	6-2/155	Oak Hill Academy/Mouth of Wilson, Va.
71.	Ramel Bradley	G	6-2/170	Pendleton Academy/Bradenton, Fla.
72.	Toney Douglas	G	6-1/173	Jonesboro/Jonesboro, Ga.
73.	David McClure	SF	6-6/205	Trinity Catholic/Stamford, Conn.
74.	Bryce Taylor	G	6-5/180	Harvard-Westlake/North Hollywood, Calif.
75.	Ronald Coleman	F	6-6/200	Romulus/Romulus, Mich.
76.	Sundiata Gaines	G	6-1/195	Archbishop Molloy/Jamaica, N.Y.
77.	James Mays	PF	6-8/215	Garner/Garner, N.C.
78.	Zambolist Frederick	PG	6-1/200	Calhoun County/St. Matthews, S.C.
79.	Alex Galindo	F	6-7/203	St. Benedicts/Newark, N.J. (Mayaguez, P.R.)
80.	Shaun Pruitt	PF	6-9/220	West Aurora/Aurora, Ill.
81.	Justin Cerasoli	PG	6-5/170	West Aurora/Aurora, Ill.
82.	Charles Rhodes	PF	6-9/220	Lanier/Jackson, Miss.
83.	David Burgess	F/C	6-10/255	Woodbridge/Irvine, Calif.
84.	Shane Foster	SF	6-6/175	Bonnabel/Kenner, La.
85.	Jerrell Houston	SF	6-8/200	Memphis East/Memphis
86.	Cameron Stanley	PF	6-7/200	Millbrook/Raleigh, N.C.
87.	Chester Giles	F/C	6-11/233	Rainier Beach/Seattle
88.	Matt Terwilliger	F/C	6-9/220	Troy/Troy, Ohio
89.	Al Horford	PF/C	6-8/230	Grand Ledge/Grand Ledge, Mich.
90.	Joseph Jones	PF/C	6-9/250	Normangee/Normangee, Texas
91.	Maarty Leunen	C	6-9/210	Redmond/Redmond, Ore.
92.	Enrico Tucker	PG	6-0/180	University of San Diego High/San Diego
93.	Josh Duncan	F	6-7/210	Moeller/Cincinnati
94.	John Lucky	G/F	6-5/210	Sacred Heart/Waterbury, Conn.
95.	Eric Viernisel	SF	6-7/195	Jacobs/Algonquin, Ill.
96.	Quentin Thomas	PG	6-4/170	Oakland Tech/Oakland
97.	Gavin Grant	SF	6-7/190	St. Raymond Academy/Bronx, N.Y.
98.	Gabriel Pruitt	G	6-3/170	Westchester/Los Angeles
99.	Taj Finger	PF	6-8/185	Fox Lane/Bedford, N.Y.
100.	Chris Lofton	G	6-1/185	Mason County/Maysville, Ky.

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Shaun Livingston

DILIP VISHWANATH/TSN

Top juniors

Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	High school/Hometown
1.	Keith Brumbaugh	SF	6-8/195	DeLand/DeLand, Fla.
2.	Tasmin Mitchell	PF	6-7/220	Denham Springs/Denham Springs, La.
3.	Julian Wright	SF	6-7/200	Homewood/Flossmoor, Ill.
4.	Greg Paulus	PG	6-2/185	Christian Brothers Academy/Manlius, N.Y.
5.	Louis Williams	PG/SG	6-2/165	South Gwinnett/Snellville, Ga.
6.	Andre McGee	PG	5-10/155	Canyon Springs/Moreno Valley, Calif.
7.	Marcus Ginyard	SG/PG	6-4/180	Bishop O'Connell/Alexandria, Va.
8.	Tyler Smith	SF	6-6/210	Giles County/Pulaski, Tenn.
9.	Richard Hendrix	PF	6-7/250	Athens/Athens, Ala.
10.	Monta Ellis	SG	6-2/170	Lanier/Jackson, Miss.
11.	Julius Powell	PF	6-8/210	Newton-Conover/Newton, N.C.
12.	Jamal Boykin	SF	6-6/210	Fairfax Senior/Los Angeles
13.	Rashad Chase	PF	6-8/225	Mays/Atlanta
14.	Theo Davis	PF	6-9/215	St. Patrick's/Paterson, N.J.
15.	Josh McRoberts	PF	6-9/215	Carmel/Carmel, Ind.
16.	Kevin Swinton	PF	6-8/230	Dudley/Greensboro, N.C.
17.	Kendric Price	SF	6-8/195	Buckingham, Browne & Nichols/Boston
18.	Tony Freeman	PG/SG	6-0/170	St. Joseph/Broadview, Ill.
19.	Nathan Skinner	SF	6-5/205	Father Redmond/Etobicoke, Ontario
20.	Brandon Rush	SF	6-6/185	Mount Zion Christian Academy/K.C. Mo.
21.	Joao Garcia	C	6-11/240	Worcester Academy/Cleveland
22.	Clarence Holloway	C	7-0/270	Fenger/Chicago
23.	Harvey Hale	G/F	6-4/185	Rio Grande/Albuquerque, N.M.
24.	Antonio Pena	PF	6-7/230	Lincoln/Brooklyn, N.Y.
25.	Mario Chalmers	PG	6-2/170	Bartlett/Anchorage, Alaska

Top sophomores

Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	High school/Hometown
1.	Vernon Macklin	C	6-9/195	Norcom/Portsmouth, Va.
2.	Derrick Character	PF/C	6-9/285	Scotch Plains-Fanwood/Elizabeth, N.J.
3.	Durrell Arthur	PF	6-6/230	South Oak Cliff/Dallas
4.	Greg Oden	C	6-11/229	Lawrence North/Indianapolis
5.	Nic Wise	PG	5-9/170	Hightower/Katy, Texas
6.	Javaris Crittenton	PG	6-4/195	Southwest Atlanta Christian/Atlanta
7.	Jason Bennett	C	7-1/225	Arlington Country Day/Jacksonville
8.	Jawan Carter	PG	6-0/165	St. Benedict's/Wilmington, Del.
9.	Brandon Wright	PF	6-7/183	Brentwood Academy/Brentwood, Tenn.
10.	Tyrone Armstrong	SG	6-5/180	Atascadero/Atascadero, Calif.
11.	Seth Tarver	SF/PG	6-4/200	Jesuit/Portland
12.	Chris Poellnitz	SG/PG	6-0/170	Scott/Toledo, Ohio
13.	Mitchell Carter	C	6-11/245	Rufus King/Milwaukee
14.	John Mitchell	PF	6-6/233	Mount Vernon/Mount Vernon, N.Y.
15.	Darryl Augustin	PG	5-11/150	Brother Martin/New Orleans
16.	Charles Boozer	PG	6-2/167	Leesville Road/Raleigh, N.C.
17.	Gerald Henderson	SF	6-4/195	Episcopal Academy/Merion Station, Pa.
18.	Robert Eppinger	PF/C	6-8/240	Jefferson/Rockford, Ill.
19.	Jerry Smith	SG	6-2/194	Wauwatosa East/Wauwatosa, Wis.
20.	Paul Harris	SF/PG	6-4/214	Niagara Falls/Niagara Falls, N.Y.
21.	Shaun Watson	PF/SF	6-5/180	Greenville/Greenville, Ga.
22.	Trevon Willis	SG	6-2/180	Washington Union/Fresno, Calif.
23.	Curtis Kelly	SF	6-6/175	Rice/New York
24.	Lathen Wallace	SG	6-3/180	Jefferson/Portland
25.	Desmond Carter	PG	5-9/170	St. Charles Catholic/La Place, La.

Where TSN's top 50 high school seniors are headed

By Mike Sullivan

Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	High school/Hometown	College/NBA
1.	LeBron James	G	6-6/225	St. Vincent's, St. Mary's/Akron, Ohio	NBA
2.	Luol Deng	F	6-8/220	Blair Academy/Blairtown, N.J.	Duke
3.	Charlie Villanueva	F	6-10/220	Blair Academy/Brooklyn	Connecticut
4.	James Lang	C	6-11/300	Central Park Christian/Mobile, Ala.	NBA
5.	Brian Butch	C	6-11/220	Appleton West/Appleton, Wis.	Wisconsin
6.	Shannon Brown	G	6-3/190	Proviso East /Maywood, Ill.	Michigan State
7.	David Padgett	C	6-11/235	Reno/Reno, Nev.	Kansas
8.	Kendrick Perkins	C	6-10/260	Ozen/Beaumont, Texas	NBA
9.	Ndudi Ebi	F	6-9/195	Westbury Christian/Houston	NBA
10.	Mustafa Shakur	G	6-3/175	Friends Central/Philadelphia	Arizona
11.	Kris Humphries	F	6-8/240	Hopkins/Chaska, Minn.	Minnesota
12.	Chris Paul	G	6-0/168	West Forsyth/Winston-Salem, N.C.	Wake Forest
13.	Ivan Harris	F	6-8/220	Oak Hill Academy/Springfield, Ohio	Ohio State
14.	Leon Powe	F	6-8/230	Oakland Tech/Oakland	California
15.	Andrew Lavender	G	5-7/155	Brookhaven/Columbus, Ohio	Oklahoma
16.	Mike Jones	G	6-5/180	Thayer Academy/Dorchester, Mass.	Maryland
17.	Alexander Johnson	F	6-10/250	Bridgton Academy/Albany, Ga.	Florida State
18.	Trevor Ariza	F	6-8/200	Westchester/Los Angeles	UCLA
19.	Dion Harris	G	6-3/200	Redford/Detroit	Michigan
20.	Olu Famutimi	G	6-5/210	Flint Northwestern/Toronto	Arkansas
21.	Von Wafer	F	6-5/210	Heritage Christian/Lisbon, La.	Florida State
22.	Demetris Nichols	F	6-8/190	St. Andrew's/Boston	Syracuse
23.	J.R. Giddens	F	6-5/185	John Marshall/Oklahoma City, Okla.	Kansas
24.	Linas Kleiza	F	6-8/245	Montrose Christian/Lithuania	Missouri
25.	Chris Taft	C	6-10/230	Brooklyn/Xaverian	Pittsburgh
26.	Brandon Bass	F	6-8/250	Capitol/Baton Rouge, La.	LSU
27.	Regis Koundja	F	6-7/195	Laurinburg Inst./C. Africa Republic	LSU
28.	Sean Banks	F	6-8/210	Bergen Catholic/Oradell, N.J.	Memphis
29.	Wesley Green	C	6-9/265	Eustis/Eustis, Fla.	DePaul
30.	Ekene Ibekwe	F	6-9/190	Carson/Carson, Calif.	Maryland
31.	Mohamed Abukar	F	6-10/200	Rancho Bernardo/Escondido, Calif.	Florida
32.	Marquise Kately	F	6-5/215	Maine Central Inst./San Francisco	California
33.	Terrence Roberts	F	6-9/215	St. Anthony's/Jersey City, N.J.	Syracuse
34.	Travis Outlaw	F	6-10/190	Starkville/Starkville, Miss.	NBA
35.	Brandon Cotton	G	6-0/190	DePores/Detroit	Michigan State
36.	Richard McBride	G	6-3/210	Lanphier/Springfield, Ill.	Illinois
37.	Darryl Watkins	F	6-11/235	Paterson Catholic/Paterson, N.J.	Syracuse
38.	Brandon Foust	F	6-6/210	Brookhaven/Columbus, Ohio	Oklahoma
39.	Ronnie Brewer	G	6-6/190	Fayetteville/Fayetteville, Ark.	Arkansas
40.	Corey Gibbs	F	6-7/230	Redan/Lithonia, Ga.	Georgia
41.	Gary Ervin	G	5-11/175	Notre Dame Prep/Brooklyn	Mississippi St.
42.	Marcus Williams	G	6-2/190	Oak Hill Academy/Los Angeles	Connecticut
43.	Ryan Appleby	G	6-3/165	Stanwood/Stanwood, Wash.	Florida
44.	Chris Richard	F	6-8/230	Kathleen /Lakeland, Fla.	Florida
45.	Lee Humphrey	G	6-2/180	Maryville/Maryville, Tenn.	Florida
46.	Will Blalock	G	5-11/165	Notre Dame Acad./Roxbury, Mass.	Iowa State
47.	Ayinde Ubaka	G	6-3/190	Oakland/Oakland	California
48.	Quincy Douby	G	6-3/175	St. Thomas More/Brooklyn	Rutgers
49.	Thomas Gardner	G	6-5/210	Jefferson/Portland	Missouri
50.	Josh Boone	F	6-10/230	West Nottingham Acad./Mt Airy, Md.	Connecticut

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Where last season's top JC players signed

By Rick Ball, www.Ballstars.net

POINT GUARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college	Four-year school
1.	Filiberto Rivera	6-1/165	Southeastern Iowa	UTEP
2.	Jerel Blessingame	5-10/170	L. A. City, Calif.	UNLV
3.	Edgar Moreno	6-2/195	Lon Morris, Texas	Texas
4.	Randy Pulley	6-2/213	Barton County, Kan.	Missouri
5.	Chris Huber	6-1/190	Dixie State, Utah	Utah State
6.	Zione White	6-3/175	SMSU West Plains, Mo.	High Point
7.	Marcus Neal	6-0/175	Polk, Fla.	Nebraska
8.	Bradley Mosley	6-2/170	Daytona Beach, Fla.	South Florida
9.	James Parker	6-0/170	Eastern Okla. St. College	Butler
10.	Darel Lucas	6-1/175	Redlands, Okla.	Binghamton

SHOOTING GUARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college	Four-year school
1.	Donell Taylor	6-6/180	Okaloosa-Walton, Fla.	UAB
2.	Aaron Curtis	6-5/210	Lon Morris, Texas	TCU
3.	Roy Booker	6-2/190	Allen County, Kan.	Montana
4.	Marcus West	6-5/200	San Jacinto, Texas	Fresno State
5.	Ed McCants	6-3/195	Paris, Texas	Wis.-Milwaukee
6.	Jaison Williams	6-3/185	Southern Idaho	Oklahoma
7.	Mark Wilson	6-3/210	Highland, Ill.	North Texas
8.	Ed Spencer	6-2/180	Butler County, Kan.	UNC Wilmington
9.	Nick Williams	6-3/185	Chipola, Fla.	Cincinnati
10.	Ronell Taylor	6-5/180	Okaloosa-Walton, Fla.	UAB

SMALL FORWARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college	Four-year school
1.	Marcellus Sommerville	6-7/225	Southwestern Ill.	Bradley
2.	Nate Daniels	6-8/215	Broward, Fla.	Louisville
3.	Romel Beck	6-7/205	L. A. City, Calif.	UNLV
4.	Jeff Varem	6-6/235	Vincennes, Ind.	Washington State
5.	Omar Thomas	6-5/205	Panola, Texas	UTEP
6.	Alfred Neale	6-5/200	NE Oklahoma A&M	New Mexico
7.	Michael McFadden	6-5/205	San Jose City, Calif.	San Jose State
8.	Ronnie LeMelle	6-5/200	Western Okla. St.	Auburn
9.	J. J. Montgomery	6-5/196	Angelina, Texas	Arkansas State
10.	Marques Lewis	6-8/250	Wabash Valley, Ill.	UAB

POWER FORWARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college	Four-year school
1.	Julian Sensley	6-9/225	L. A. City, Calif.	Hawaii
2.	Devonne Giles	6-8/225	Seward County, Kan.	Texas Tech
3.	Jeremiah Massey	6-8/230	Oxnard, Calif.	Kansas State
4.	Nick DeWitz	6-8/215	Mesa, Ariz. (RS)	Iowa
5.	Yakhoubia Diawara	6-7/225	Southern Idaho	Pepperdine
6.	Zach Morley	6-8/220	Indian Hills, Iowa	Wisconsin
7.	Kelvin Brown	6-7/220	Fort Scott, Kan.	Murray State
8.	Damion Staple	6-8/230	Southeastern Ill.	Iowa State
9.	Michael Bell	6-9/215	Palm Beach, Fla.	Florida Atlantic
10.	Harvey Thomas	6-8/210	NE Oklahoma A&M	Baylor

CENTERS

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college	Four-year school
1.	Robert Whaley	6-10/260	Barton County, Kan.	Cincinnati
2.	Reda Rhalimi	7-1/245	Daytona Beach, Fla.	St. Mary's
3.	Diego Romero	6-10/240	Lon Morris, Texas	Florida State
4.	Marcus Jackson	6-8/240	South Plains, Texas	Marquette
5.	Chris Adams	6-10/225	San Francisco	UNLV
6.	Tremaine Fuqua	6-9/240	Skyline, Calif.	Oklahoma State
7.	Dedric Spooner	6-8/235	Colby, Kan.	Charlotte
8.	Jeff Jones	6-8/225	San Jose City, Calif.	New Mexico State
9.	Oswaldo Gonzalez	6-9/240	Jacksonville, Texas	Tulsa
10.	Justin Garcia	7-1/245	San Bernardino Valley, Calif.	Washington State

(RS) = Redshirted the 2002-2003 season.

Top 2003-04 JC sophomores

POINT GUARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college
1.	Jihad Muhammed	6-0/165	San Jacinto (Texas)
2.	Travis DeGroot	6-3/205	New Mexico Military
3.	Deonte Tatum	6-2/185	Indian Hills (Iowa)
4.	Isaac Hines	5-11/170	Collin County (Texas)
5.	Courtney McGarry	5-11/160	Kankakee (Ill.)
6.	Mike Mitchell	6-0/165	Hill (Texas)
7.	Mike Ford	6-1/195	L. A. Southwest (Calif.)
8.	Rickey Williams	5-11/165	San Jose (Calif.)
9.	Alfonso Burnett	5-9/155	Pensacola (Fla.)
10.	Akeem Scott	6-0/170	Garrett (Md.)

SHOOTING GUARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college
1.	Rashaad Carruth	6-3/190	Indian Hills (Iowa)
2.	Vincent Grier	6-4/195	Dixie State (Utah)
3.	Roscoe Bigger	6-2/200	Globe Institute (New York)
4.	Bryant Dillon	6-5/200	Southwestern (Ill.)
5.	Tyrone Jackson	6-2/180	Fresno City (Calif.)
6.	Je'Kel Foster	6-3/205	Chipola (Fla.)
7.	Miguel Ayala	6-6/200	Fullerton (Calif.)
8.	Nedu Onyeuku	6-2/180	Iowa Western
9.	Mo Charlo	6-6/210	Diablo Valley (Calif.)
10.	Antonio Bright	6-4/185	Bevill State (Ala.)

SMALL FORWARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college
1.	Donta Smith	6-7/225	Southeastern Illinois
2.	James Hall	6-4/215	Eastern Oklahoma State
3.	Quinton Hosley	6-8/205	Lamar (Colo.)
4.	Ivan Almonte	6-5/215	Southeastern (Iowa)
5.	E. J. Drayton	6-8/210	Colby (Kan.)
6.	Bryson Krueger	6-6/200	Yavapai (Ariz.)
7.	J'Son Stamper	6-5/220	Independence (Kan.)
8.	Anthony Davis	6-5/225	L. A. City (Calif.)
9.	Rodney Epperson	6-8/205	Midland (Texas)
10.	John DeGroat	6-6/205	Northeastern (Colo.)

POWER FORWARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college
1.	Taj Gray	6-8/235	Redlands (Okla.)
2.	Carl Landry	6-8/230	Vincennes (Ind.)
3.	Doug Thomas	6-8/240	Southeastern (Iowa)
4.	Ray Selvage	6-7/235	Pearl River (Miss.)
5.	Jason McGriff	6-9/225	Southern Idaho
6.	Richard Young	6-9/220	Hillsborough (Fla.)
7.	Robert Faulkner	6-8/225	South Plains (Texas)
8.	Mark Dawson	6-9/225	Pasadena City (Calif.)
9.	Adrian Uter	6-7/220	Broward (Fla.)
10.	Solomon Jones	6-9/205	Daytona Beach (Fla.)

CENTERS

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college
1.	Aaron Pettway	6-10/230	Hutchinson (Kan.)
2.	Sani Ibrahim	6-10/245	Gulf Coast (Fla.)
3.	Jason Barker	6-8/245	Chipola (Fla.)
4.	Joao Batista	6-8/250	Barton County (Kan.)
5.	Randy Orr	6-11/220	Georgia Perimeter
6.	Mike Kinsella	6-11/230	Minneapolis Community and Technical
7.	Gary Ware	6-9/215	Dodge City (Kan.)
8.	Derrick Ford	6-10/235	Oleyn Central (Ill.)
9.	Eric Dawson	6-9/235	McLennan (Texas)
10.	Justin Williams	6-10/220	Colby (Kan.)

Rating the JC transfers

Best NBA prospect: Robert Whaley (Barton Co., Kan.), Cincinnati

Best passer under 6-5: Filiberto Rivera (Southeastern Iowa), UTEP

Best passer over 6-5: Zach Morley (Indian Hills, Iowa), Wisconsin

Best ballhandler: Jerel Blessingame (Los Angeles City), UNLV

Best 3-point shooter: Nate Daniels (Broward, Fla.), Louisville

Best scorer: Omar Thomas (Panola, Texas), UTEP

Best field-goal shooter: Devonne Giles (Seward Co., Kan.), Texas Tech

Best shot blocker: Chris Adams (San Francisco), UNLV

Best dunker: Mark Wilson (Highland, Ill.), North Texas

Best defender: Darel Lucas (Redlands, Okla.), Binghamton

Best free throw shooter: Marcus West (San Jacinto, Texas), Fresno State

Biggest steal: Reda Rhalimi (Daytona Beach, Fla.), St. Mary's

Biggest impact: Donell Taylor (Okaloosa-Walton, Fla.), UAB

2003-04 In-season tournaments

Date	Tournament (site)	Teams (*Denotes host team)
November 15-17	BCA Classic (Cincinnati)	Xavier*, UC Irvine, Coppin State, Illinois-Chicago, Mercer, Oakland, Ohio, San Diego.
November 17-25	Guardians Classic	Opening rounds, November 17-18: At Springfield, Missouri—Southwest Missouri St.*, Mississippi Valley St., Tennessee-Martin, Western Illinois. At Columbia, S.C.—South Carolina*, Elon, Gardner-Webb, San Francisco. Championship game, November 25: Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, Mo.
November 17-28	Preseason NIT	November 17: Yale at Connecticut, Vermont at Nevada, Missouri-Kansas City at Minnesota, Georgia State at Utah. November 18: Hofstra at Marist, Louisiana-Lafayette at Georgia Tech, Davidson at Texas Tech, St. Francis (N.Y.) at Massachusetts. Second round, November 19-21: at campus sites. Championship rounds, November 26-28: at Madison Square Garden, New York.
November 19-21	BCA Classic (Lexington, Ky.)	Kentucky*, Drexel, Florida A&M, Kent State, Morehead State, Richmond, St. John's, Winthrop.
November 20-23 (Fairbanks, Alaska)	Top of the World Classic	Alaska-Fairbanks* vs. Texas-San Antonio, Binghamton vs. St. Mary's (Calif.), Idaho State vs. Rice, VMI vs. Washington State.
November 21-22	Blue and Gold Classic (Milwaukee)	Marquette*, Arkansas-Monticello, Savannah State, Valparaiso.
November 21-22	Sooner Invitational (Norman, Okla.)	Oklahoma* vs. Eastern Washington, Oral Roberts vs. South Carolina State.
November 21-23	Florida International Tournament (Miami)	Florida International* vs. Howard, Montana State vs. Quinnipiac.
November 22-23	Marist Classic (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.)	Marist* vs. Coastal Carolina, Eastern Michigan vs. Yale.
November 22-24	Battle of Baltimore (Baltimore)	Coppin State vs. Towson State, Loyola (Md.) vs. Maryland-Baltimore County.
November 24-26	Maui Invitational (Maui, Hawaii)	Hawaii* vs. Santa Clara, Central Michigan vs. Dayton, Ohio State vs. San Diego State, Chaminade vs. Villanova.
November 26-29	Great Alaska Shootout (Anchorage)	Alaska-Anchorage* vs. Seton Hall, Duke vs. Pacific, Houston vs. Liberty, Purdue vs. Texas State.
November 28-29	Auerbach Colonial Classic (Washington, D.C.)	George Washington* vs. Appalachian State, St. Francis (N.Y.) vs. William & Mary.
November 29-30 (New Britain, Conn.)	Central Connecticut St. Tournament	Central Connecticut State* vs. Charleston Southern, Binghamton vs. Loyola Marymount.
November 29-30	Montana Holiday Classic (Missoula, Mont.)	Montana* vs. UC Santa Barbara, St. Mary's (Calif.) vs. Southeast Missouri State.
November 29-30	Spartan Classic (East Lansing, Mich.)	Michigan State* vs. Indiana St., DePaul vs. Pennsylvania.
December 5-6	Cyclone Challenge (Ames, Iowa)	Iowa St.* vs. IUPUI-Fort Wayne, Arkansas-Little Rock vs. Idaho State.
December 5-6	Hawkeye Challenge (Iowa City, Iowa)	Iowa*, Eastern Washington, Illinois-Chicago, Northern Illinois.
December 5-6	McCaffrey Classic (Fresno, Calif.)	Fresno State* vs. TBA, UC Irvine vs. Princeton.
December 5-6	SW Missouri Classic (Springfield, Mo.)	Southwest Missouri State*, Coppin State, Texas State, Weber State.
December 5-6	Winthrop Tournament (Rock Hill, S.C.)	Winthrop* vs. Samford, Hampton vs. Southern Mississippi.
December 6-7	BB&T Classic (Washington, D.C.)	George Washington* vs. West Virginia, Gonzaga vs. Maryland.
December 15-20	Pittsburgh Invitational (Pittsburgh)	Pittsburgh*, Chicago State, Eastern Michigan, Florida State, Wagner.

December 19-22	Hawaii Slam Tournament (Laie, Hawaii)	BYU-Hawaii*, Baylor, Northern Illinois, San Jose State.
December 20-21	Boilermaker Invitational (West Lafayette, Ind.)	Purdue*, IUPUI-Fort Wayne, Miami (Ohio), SMU.
December 27-28	Florida International Classic (Miami)	Florida International* vs. Sam Houston State, Drexel vs. Hartford.
December 27-28	Golden Bear Classic (Berkeley, Calif.)	California*, Air Force, Columbia, Prairie View A&M.
December 27-28	SunClassic (El Paso, Texas)	UTEP*, Mississippi Valley State, Northwestern, Rutgers.
December 27-29	ECAC Holiday Festival (New York City)	Holy Cross, Manhattan, Pennsylvania, St. John's.
December 27-30	Rainbow Classic (Honolulu)	Hawaii* vs. Lamar, Bowling Green vs. Fairfield, American vs. Pepperdine, East Tennessee State vs. IUPUI.
December 28-29	Lobo Invitational (Albuquerque, N.M.)	New Mexico* vs. Northwestern State, Arkansas State vs. Penn State.
December 28-29	Richmond Tournament (Richmond, Va.)	Richmond* vs. Harvard, Norfolk State vs. VMI.
December 28-29	Shamrock Classic (Moraga, Calif.)	St. Mary's (Calif.)* vs. St. Peter's, Birmingham Southern vs. Loyola (Ill.).
December 28-30	Fiesta Bowl Classic (Tucson, Ariz.)	Arizona* vs. Liberty, Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Valparaiso.
December 29-30	Cable Car Classic (Santa Clara, Calif.)	Santa Clara* vs. Wisconsin-Milwaukee, BYU vs. Idaho State.
December 29-30	Chattanooga Classic (Chattanooga, Tenn.)	Chattanooga* vs. Middle Tennessee, La Salle vs. South Carolina State.
December 29-30	College of Charleston Classic (Charleston, S.C.)	College of Charleston* vs. Long Island, Bucknell vs. Norfolk State.
December 29-30	Furman Classic (Greenville, S.C.)	Furman*, Bethune-Cookman, Charleston Southern, Lipscomb.
December 29-30	Hoops Classic (Tempe, Ariz.)	Arizona State*, San Diego, Western Michigan, Winthrop.
December 29-30	Islander Invitational (Corpus Christi, Texas)	Texas A&M-Corpus Christi* vs. Drake, Cleveland State vs. Georgia Southern.
December 29-30	Montana State Tournament (Bozeman, Mont.)	Montana State*, Morgan State, Southeastern Louisiana, Western Carolina.
December 29-30	USF Holiday Classic (Tampa, Fla.)	South Florida*, New Orleans, UNC Greensboro, Texas-Arlington.
December 29-30	UWGB Classic (Green Bay, Wis.)	Wisconsin-Green Bay* vs. Savannah State, Troy State vs. Weber State.
December 29-30	Utah State Tournament (Logan, Utah)	Utah State*, New Mexico State, San Francisco, Texas-San Antonio.
February 21	Bracket Buster	Participating teams: Akron, Austin Peay, Ball State, Bowling Green, Bradley, Buffalo, Butler, UC Irvine, Central Michigan, Cleveland State, College of Charleston, Creighton, Detroit, Drake, Eastern Michigan, East Tennessee State, Evansville, Fresno State, Gonzaga, Hawaii, Illinois-Chicago, Illinois State, Indiana State, Kent State, Louisiana-Lafayette, Loyola (Ill.), Manhattan, Marshall, Miami (Ohio), Nevada, New Mexico State, UNC Wilmington, Northern Illinois, Northern Iowa, Ohio, Rice, Southern Illinois, Southwest Missouri State, Toledo, Tulsa, Western Kentucky, Western Michigan, Wichita State, Wisconsin-Green Bay, Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Youngstown State.

Conference tournament schedule

League	Dates	Site	League	Dates	Site
America East	March 5-13	Boston	Mid-Continent	March 7-9	Kansas City
Atlantic Coast	March 11-14	Greensboro, N.C.	Mid-Eastern	March 8-13	Richmond, Va.
Atlantic Sun	March 4-6	Nashville	Missouri Valley	March 5-8	St. Louis
Atlantic 10	March 10-13	Dayton, Ohio	Mountain West	March 11-13	Denver
Big East	TBD	TBD	Northeast	March 6-7	Staten Island, N.Y. [^]
Big Sky	March 6-10	TBD**	Ohio Valley	March 2-6	Nashville*
Big South	March 2-6	TBD*	Pac-10	March 11-13	Los Angeles
Big Ten	March 11-14	Indianapolis	Patriot	March 6-12	Upper Marlboro, Md. [^]
Big 12	March 11-14	Dallas	Southeastern	March 11-14	Atlanta
Big West	March 11-13	Anaheim	Southern	March 3-6	Charleston, S.C.
Colonial	March 5-8	Richmond, Va.	Southland	March 8-12	TBD*
Conference USA	March 10-13	Cincinnati	Southwestern	March 10-13	Birmingham, Ala.*
Horizon	March 2-9	TBD***	Sun Belt	March 6-9	Bowling Green, Ky.
Metro Atlantic	March 5-8	Albany, N.Y.	West Coast	March 4-8	Santa Clara, Calif.
Mid-American	March 8-13	Cleveland*	Western Athletic	March 9-13	Fresno, Calif.

*First round at campus sites. **Higher seeds host quarterfinals, regular-season champion hosts title game. ***First round at campus sites, championship game at Butler or highest remaining seed. [^]Championship game at highest remaining seed. **Note:** The Ivy League does not hold a conference tournament. Its automatic NCAA bid goes to its regular-season champion.

2003 NCAA Tournament (Regional seeds in parenthesis)

CHAMPIONSHIP

Syracuse 81, Kansas 78

NATIONAL SEMIFINALS

Kansas 94, Marquette 61
Syracuse 95, Texas 84

MIDWEST REGION

Final

Marquette 83, Kentucky 69

Semifinals

Kentucky 63, Wisconsin 57
Marquette 77, Pittsburgh 74

Second round

Kentucky 74, Utah 54
Wisconsin 61, Tulsa 60
Marquette 101, Missouri 92
Pittsburgh 74, Indiana 52

First round

(1) Kentucky 95, (16) IUPUI 64
(9) Utah 60, (8) Oregon 58
(5) Wisconsin 81, (12) Weber State 74
(13) Tulsa 84, (4) Dayton 71
(6) Missouri 72, (11) Southern Illinois 71
(3) Marquette 72, (14) Holy Cross 68
(7) Indiana 67, (10) Alabama 62
(2) Pittsburgh 87, (15) Wagner 61

WEST REGION

Final

Kansas 78, Arizona 75

SEMIFINALS

Arizona 88, Notre Dame 71
Kansas 69, Duke 65

Second round

Arizona 96, Gonzaga 95
Notre Dame 68, Illinois 60
Duke 86, Central Michigan 60
Kansas 108, Arizona State 76

First round

(1) Arizona 80, (16) Vermont 51
(9) Gonzaga 74, (8) Cincinnati
(5) Notre Dame 70, (12) Wisconsin-Milwaukee 69
(4) Illinois 65, (13) Western Kentucky 60
(11) Central Michigan 79, (6) Creighton 73
(3) Duke 67, (14) Colorado State 57
(10) Arizona State 84, (7) Memphis 71
(2) Kansas 64, (15) Utah State 61

SOUTH REGION

Final

Texas 85, Michigan State 76

Semifinals

Texas 82, Connecticut 78
Michigan State 60, Maryland 58

Second round

Texas 77, Purdue 67
Connecticut 85, Stanford 74
Maryland 77, Xavier 64
Michigan State 68, Florida 46

First round

(1) Texas 82, (16) UNC Asheville 61
(9) Purdue 80, (8) LSU 56
(5) Connecticut 58, (12) BYU 53
(4) Stanford 77, (13) San Diego 69
(6) Maryland 75, (11) UNC Wilmington 73
(3) Xavier 71, (14) Troy State 59
(7) Michigan State 79, (10) Colorado 64
(2) Florida 85, (15) Sam Houston 55

EAST REGION

Final

Syracuse 63, Oklahoma 47

Semifinals

Oklahoma 65, Butler 54
Syracuse 79, Auburn 78

Second round

Oklahoma 74, California 65
Butler 79, Louisville 71
Syracuse 68, Oklahoma State 56
Auburn 68, Wake Forest 62

First round

(1) Oklahoma 71, (16) South Carolina 54
(9) California 76, (8) N.C. State 74
(12) Butler 47, (5) Mississippi State 46
(4) Louisville 86, (13) Austin Peay 64
(6) Oklahoma State 77, (11) Pennsylvania 63
(3) Syracuse 76, (14) Manhattan 65
(10) Auburn 65, (7) Saint Joseph's 63
(2) Wake Forest 76, (15) E. Tennessee St. 73

Opening round

(16) UNC Asheville 92, (17) Tex. Southern 84

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2004 NCAA Tournament sites

SELECTION SUNDAY

Sunday, March 14

OPENING ROUND

Tuesday, March 16
Dayton, Ohio

FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS

March 18 and 20

(Thursday/Saturday)

HSBC Arena, Buffalo, N.Y.

RBC Center, Raleigh, N.C.

Pepsi Center, Denver

KeyArena, Seattle

March 19 and 21

(Friday/Sunday)

Kemper Arena, Kansas City, Mo.

Bradley Center, Milwaukee

TD Waterhouse Centre, Orlando, Fla.

Nationwide Arena, Columbus, Ohio

REGIONAL SESSIONS

March 25 and 27

(Thursday/Saturday)

Continental Airlines Arena, East Rutherford, N.J.

America West Arena, Phoenix

March 26 and 28

(Friday/Sunday)

Georgia Dome, Atlanta

Edward Jones Dome, St. Louis

FINAL FOUR

April 3 and 5

(Saturday/Monday)

Alamodome, San Antonio

FUTURE FINAL FOUR SITES

2005

Edward Jones Dome

St. Louis

April 2 and 4

2006

RCA Dome

Indianapolis

April 1 and 3

2007

Georgia Dome

Atlanta

March 31 and April 2

2008

Alamodome

San Antonio

2009

Ford Field

Detroit

2010

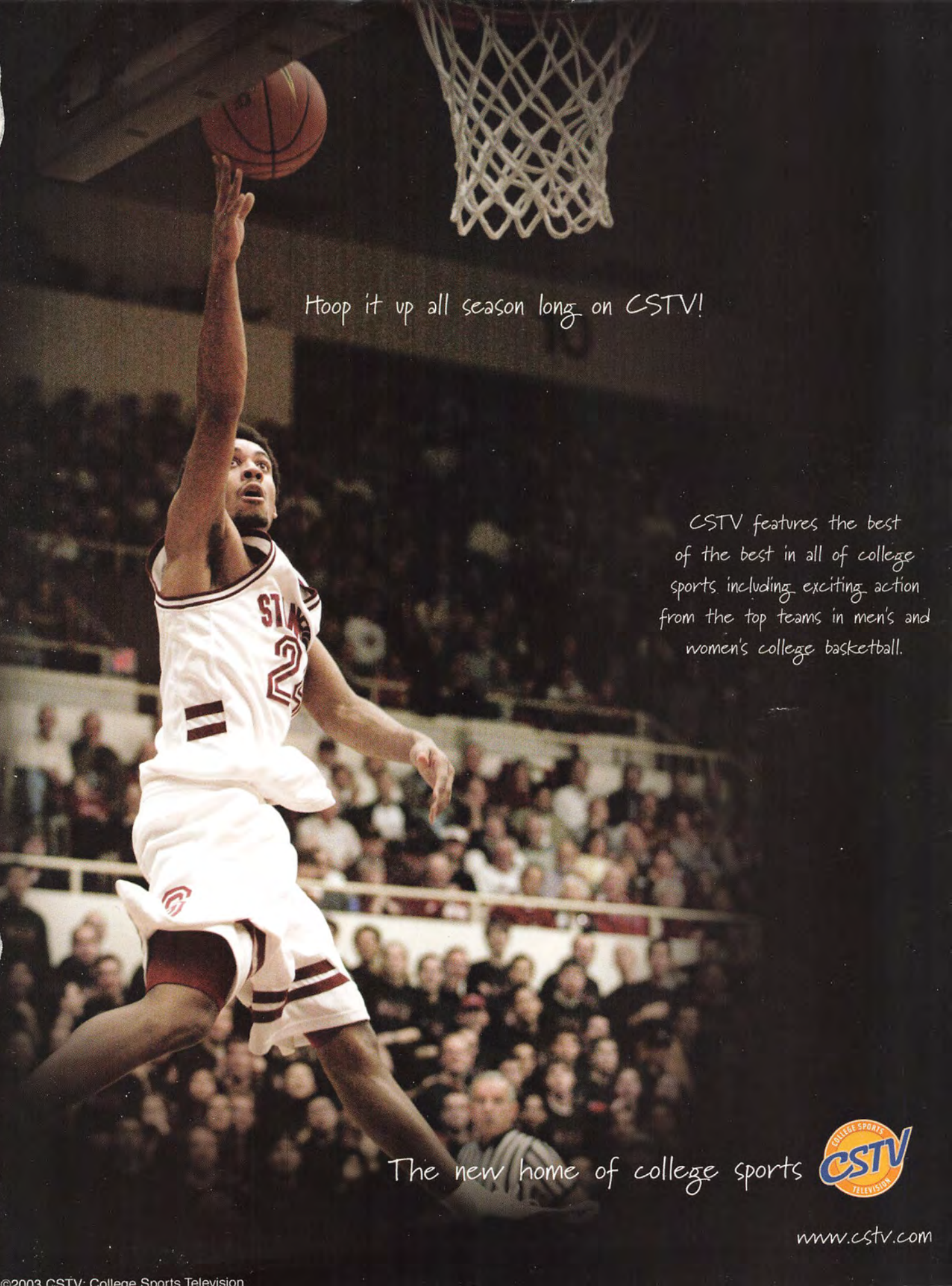
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Indianapolis

2011

Reliant Stadium

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